



JUSTICES HEAR ARGUMENTS ON AIR POLLUTION

Page 4



CONGRESS INKS KEY BIPARTISAN BUDGET DEAL

Page 3

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, December 11, 2013

GM NAMES FEMALE CEO

BILL VLASIC

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DETROIT - General Motors announced Tuesday that its chief executive, Daniel F. Akerson, would retire next month and be succeeded by Mary T. Barra, who would become the first woman to lead a major auto company.



General Motors Senior Vice President Mary Barra, in New York, Nov. 5, 2013. Barra was named GM CEO on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013.

(Earl Wilson/The New York Times)

The elevation of Barra, 51, to the chief executive post is the latest dramatic change at the top of General Motors since its bailout by the federal government in 2009.

GM, the nation's largest automaker, said Akerson, 65, would step down as chief executive and chairman on Jan. 15.

Continued on page 6



President Barack Obama acknowledges applause before speaking at the memorial service for former South African president Nelson Mandela at the FNB Stadium in Soweto near Johannesburg, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

The Great And The Humble Pay Tribute To Mandela

Lydia Polgreen

Nicholas Kulish

Alan Cowell

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SOWETO, South Africa - In an outpouring of praise, remembrance and celebration, scores of leaders from around the world, including President Barack Obama, joined tens of thousands of South Africans in a vast rain-swept soccer stadium here Tuesday to pay common tribute to Nelson Mandela, whose struggle

against apartheid inspired his own country and many far beyond its borders.

Huge cheers greeted Obama as he rose to offer a eulogy that blended a deep personal message with a broader appeal for Mandela's values to survive him. It was a day for South Africans, swathed in their national colors, some wearing wraparounds bearing Mandela's portrait, to celebrate their former president both as an inspiration

for a long struggle and as an inherited memory for younger people raised in the post-apartheid era.

"To the people of South Africa - people of every race and every walk of life - the world thanks you for sharing Nelson Mandela with us," Obama said. "His struggle was your struggle. His triumph was your triumph. Your dignity and hope found expression in his life, and your freedom, your democracy is his cherished

legacy."

Sheets of driving rain swept across this former segregated township - a huge urban sprawl within sight of the glittery rises of downtown Johannesburg - keeping some mourners away from the 95,000-capacity FNB Stadium where Mandela made his last public appearance during the soccer World Cup in 2010.

Continued on page 2

World pays tribute to Mandela

Continued from Front

The stadium was far from full as the start of the memorial approached.

"Even heaven is crying," one woman in the crowd declared as the deluge continued. "We have lost an angel."

For those tens of thousands who entered the stadium, the memorial service, part of a 10-day period of national mourning since Mandela died last Thursday, was a moment that fused revolutionary memories of the fight against apartheid with appeals for the values of forgiveness and reconciliation.

"It is hard to eulogize any man - to capture in words not just the facts and the dates that make a life, but the essential truth of a person - their private joys and sorrows; the quiet moments and unique qualities that illuminate someone's soul," Obama said.

"How much harder to do so for a giant of history, who moved a nation toward justice, and in the process moved billions around the world."

The moment was not immune to more recent political undercurrents in advance of elections next year. President Jacob Zuma was greeted with boos and whistles from a

note, he went on: "Over 30 years ago, while still a student, I learned of Mandela and the struggles in this land. It stirred something in me. It woke me up to my responsibilities - to others, and to myself - and set me on an improbable journey that finds me here today. And while I will always fall short of Madiba's example, he makes me want to be better. He speaks to what is best inside us."

People arriving for the ceremony reached for umbrellas and raincoats amid the drenching rain.

The U.S. delegation included three former presidents - Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Jimmy Carter - as



Attendees cheer and dance as they arrive at the state memorial service for former South African President Nelson Mandela at FNB Stadium in the Soweto township of Johannesburg, Dec. 10, 2013. Scores of leaders from around the world, including President Barack Obama, joined tens of thousands of people in the vast stadium Tuesday to pay common tribute to Mandela, who died Dec. 5.

(Daniel Berehulak/The New York Times)

Songs of the struggle, as the anti-apartheid campaign is known, blended with hymns and prayer. Some stomped their feet as young protesters did during the years of protest that led to Mandela's release from prison in 1990 after 27 years of incarceration. As much as visiting dignitaries sought to underscore their association with Mandela, their presence here also reinforced South Africans' pride in him.

The strains of South Africa's national anthem - "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika," or "God Bless Africa" - swelled over the stadium.

crowd that cheered President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, former South African president Thabo Mbeki and, loudest of all, Obama.

Using Mandela's clan name, Obama declared: "It took a man like Madiba to free not just the prisoner, but the jailer as well; to show that you must trust others so that they may trust you; to teach that reconciliation is not a matter of ignoring a cruel past, but a means of confronting it with inclusion, generosity and truth. He changed laws, but also hearts."

Striking a deeply personal

well as former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, Michelle Obama and Laura Bush.

Cyril Ramaphosa, a former labor leader who became a wealthy entrepreneur and, more recently, deputy leader of the governing African National Congress, presided over the ceremony, just as he played a central role when Mandela was released from prison in 1990.

"His long walk is over," Ramaphosa declared, referring to "Long Walk to Freedom," the title of Mandela's autobiography. "But ours is only beginning." □

CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

Panel: reparations battle advancing

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — A Caribbean commission is expanding the number of former colonial powers it says should pay reparations for the lingering regional impact of slavery. Members of the Caribbean Community Reparations Commission now say eight European nations should work with regional governments to "address the living legacies of these crimes." A British law firm hired by Caribbean governments seeking reparations initially identified Britain, France and the Netherlands. □

Guyana seeks ouster of capital govt

GEOGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana's government is demanding the ouster of the opposition-run city council in the South American country's capital. Security Minister Clement Rohee said this week that the local officials should resign and let a government-appointed group take over. Local officials say they lack trucks and money to pay private contractors. The opposition party known as A Partnership For National Unity accuses its rivals of trying to gain control of the capital to improve its chances when the country holds local elections next year for the first time in decades. □

Search for missing Dominicans ends

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard has called off a four-day search for 14 Dominican migrants bound for Puerto Rico who reportedly went missing at sea. Spokesman Ricardo Castrodad said Tuesday that concerned relatives called authorities after the ship left the Dominican Republic on Dec. 1 but did not arrive at its intended destination in southwest Puerto Rico. He said crews spent more than 76 hours searching for the group, covering more than 39,000 square miles (100,000 square kilometers) between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. □

Puerto Rico blasts justice secretary

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's justice secretary is under fire for going to a police station to visit a former law firm partner who had been arrested for alleged drunk driving. Luis Sanchez Betances says he did not intervene with police or ask for any special favors. But Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla says he has requested an official report to determine whether anything improper occurred. And the opposition New Progressive Party filed a complaint Tuesday with the Government Ethics Office. Police say 66-year-old Jaime Sifre Rodriguez was arrested Friday after a test revealed a blood alcohol content of 0.21 percent, more than twice the legal limit. □

Obese inmate loses dispute on care

GUANTANAMO, Cuba (AP) — A federal court has declined to get involved in a dispute over medical care for an obese prisoner in declining health at the Guantanamo Bay detention center. Lawyers for Tarek El-Sawah were claiming that doctors at the U.S. base in Cuba were not adequately treating the Egyptian prisoner for ailments that included a lung condition and possible heart disease. They said his health was so bad it was interfering with their ability to represent him in a challenge to his confinement. □

Republican says Iran deal should halt uranium enrichment



Secretary of State John Kerry during testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Iranian nuclear deal on Capitol Hill in Washington, Dec. 10, 2013. Ed Royce, the Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said Tuesday that a follow-on nuclear accord with Iran should require that Tehran stop enriching uranium, an agreement that Kerry is unsure can be achieved, but is the U.S. obligation to try. (Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

MICHAEL R. GORDON
© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Laying down a marker, the Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said Tuesday that a follow-on nuclear accord with Iran should require that Tehran stop enriching uranium. "The key issue is whether a final agreement would allow Iran to manu-

facture nuclear fuel," the chairman, Ed Royce of California, said during a hearing that included testimony by Secretary of State John Kerry. "It simply can't be trusted with enrichment technology, because verification efforts can never be foolproof." Comments by Royce and other panel members effectively shifted the terms

of the debate from the interim accord that the United States and five other world powers negotiated last month, which involved freezing much of Iran's nuclear program, to the more comprehensive one that international negotiators plan to pursue.

The interim agreement is for six months, but it can be renewed for six months by mutual consent. The goal is to buy time so a more sweeping agreement can be negotiated. The interim agreement also outlines some of the provisions of

such a follow-on agreement, saying that Iran could continue to enrich uranium "under mutually agreed parameters" and under "enhanced monitoring." Kerry said to the panel that he did not know if a comprehensive agreement could be achieved but that the United States had an obligation to try. And, seeking to defuse the congressional push for additional sanctions, he said that imposing new penalties at this point would poison the atmosphere for such talks.

"We have an obligation to give these negotiations an opportunity to succeed," Kerry said.

Trying to reassure the lawmakers, Kerry said that the scope of any future Iranian enrichment activity under a comprehensive agreement would need to be "mutually agreed" and would be linked to legitimate civilian needs. But the six-month interim agreement, Kerry asserted, was also in the best interest of the United States because it halted important elements of Iran's program.

Congress reaches budget deal

ANDREW TAYLOR
DAVID ESPO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional negotiators reached a modest U.S. budget agreement Tuesday to restore about \$65 billion in automatic spending cuts from programs ranging from parks to the Defense Department, with votes expected in both houses by week's end. Officials said the increases would be offset by a variety of spending reductions and increased fees elsewhere in the budget totaling about \$85 billion over a decade, enough for a largely symbolic cut of roughly \$20 billion in the nation's \$17 trillion debt.

While an agreement would have little impact on deficits, it holds the potential for avoiding politically charged budget clashes for the next year or two. It also was reached without the threat of an impend-

ing catastrophic deadline hanging over the lawmakers' heads.

But the plan does nothing to address three of the big drivers of American deficit spending — the Medicare government health insurance program for the elderly, the Medicaid aid program for the poor and the Social Security government pension plan.

Conservatives are upset that the plan rolls back spending cuts, known as the sequester, while liberals are angered about the requirement that federal employees will have to pay more toward their pension accounts.

Also progressives in Congress fought for an extension of unemployment payments to workers who have been out of a job for more than six months. This program expires Dec. 28 when payments will be cut off to an estimated 1.3 million individuals. □

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Justices hear arguments on pollution

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday in a knotty environmental case over how to hold states responsible for air pollution that drifts across their borders and causes harm in downwind states. If there was consensus among the justices, it concerned only the complexity and difficulty of the issues before them. "This is a tough problem," said Justice Stephen G. Breyer. A few minutes later, Justice Elena Kagan offered a similar assessment. "This is a hard problem," she said. The Obama administration's solution, a

trading system in which the states could buy and sell pollution credits, was struck down last year in a 2-1 ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The appeals court said the Environmental Protection Agency had exceeded its authority under the Clean Air Act in the way it apportioned the cleanup work among 28 upwind states.

The air in those states, mostly in the Midwest and South, may meet regulatory standards within their borders even as pollutants from their power plants and refineries drift across state lines, preventing neighboring states from

meeting their legal obligations. The affected states are largely in the Northeast and the mid-Atlantic.

The regulation at issue, the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, sometimes called the transport rule, did not apportion reductions by the amount of pollution contributed by each upwind state. Instead, the agency sought to encourage remedial action where it was cheapest. The appeals court said this approach violated the Clean Air Act's "good neighbor" provision by requiring upwind states "to reduce their emissions by more than their own significant contribution" to downwind pollution. □



Snow is swept from the U.S. Supreme Court steps in Washington, Dec. 10, 2013. The court heard arguments on Tuesday in a knotty environmental case involving Environmental Protection Agency regulations regarding cross-state air pollution and how to hold polluting states responsible. (Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

With filibuster threat gone; Senate approves appeals court nominee

THE NEW YORK TIMES

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WASHINGTON - The Senate on Tuesday confirmed Patricia Ann Millett to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, making her the first person to be pushed through by Senate Democrats after they eliminated filibusters against executive and judicial branch nominees last month. By a vote of 56-38, the Senate installed Millett, a former assistant solicitor general in both Democratic and Republican administrations, to what many consider the second-most-influential court in the

nation. Her nomination, which passed with support from Democrats and two Republicans, was initially blocked by Republicans at the end of October.

With their new ability to thwart filibusters, Senate Democrats plan to confirm two more Obama administration nominees to the powerful appeals court before the end of the year, tipping the majority in favor of judges appointed by Democrats.

"I'm pleased that in a bipartisan vote, the Senate has confirmed Patricia Millett to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for

the District of Columbia Circuit, filling a vacancy that has been open since 2005," President Barack Obama said in a statement issued after the vote. "She has served in the Department of Justice for both Democratic and Republican presidents. I'm confident she will serve with distinction on the federal bench."

The Senate was also advancing the nomination of Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N.C., to a federal housing regulatory post. Republicans had blocked his nomination, too, before the rules change. □

Report: Although growth is slow, states see more budget stability

RICK LYMAN

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While states are continuing to see modest progress in their struggle to dig out from the 2008 recession, the era of chronic budget instability and wholesale service cuts appears to have ended, according to a report released Tuesday by the National Association of State Budget Officers. The rate of revenue growth in 2014, however, is expected to be significantly lower than in 2013, the report said.

Of particular concern to budget officers was a falloff in the taxes that states are projected to collect this fiscal year, said the executive director of the association, Scott Pattison. Growth is expected to be essentially flat - 0.8 percent - in the 2014 fiscal year, which started in October, compared with an estimated 5.7 percent increase a year before.

One reason for the smaller growth was a one-time surge of revenue in 2013 because of changes in federal tax laws that led some individuals, particularly the most wealthy, to sell assets before Jan. 1, 2013, to avoid higher rates for capital gains and dividends.

But there were other factors, Pattison said. Several states, most prominently those with Republican governors, enacted tax cuts that take effect in the coming year, enough so that taxes in all 50 states, in the aggregate, will go down next year. The federal sequestration and partial government shutdown added uncertainty to budget projections, he said, as did soft consumer spending.

The report mirrors a study released Monday by the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government that found that the vigorous growth in revenue in the final quarter of 2012 and first quarter of 2013 had largely dissipated with states reporting "significantly softening revenue growth."

State spending grew 3.6 percent, or \$26.3 billion, in state budgets for the 2014 fiscal year, the state budget directors' study found. Spending growth in the previous fiscal year was 4.3 percent; both figures are well below the historical average growth rate of 5.6 percent. "We are seeing growth in the states, but it is not nearly at the levels we have seen historically," said George Naughton, Oregon's chief financial officer and president of the association.

This period of lower growth is likely to become a significant factor in statehouse politics and the midterm elections, when there will be 36 races for governor, and candidates will argue how to spend the state's money and whether to respond to a slowdown in tax revenue. "On the one hand, state budgets are stable now. There is not the volatility where you had to go in and make pretty significant cuts almost randomly during the year based on tax collections," Pattison said. "But on the other hand, there's not enough money coming in for everything that's either desired or necessary for states to spend money on."

States saw major drops in revenue in 2009 and 2010, the years of greatest impact from the recession, followed by four years of growth, albeit below the levels before the recession. The question now is whether the lower projections for 2014 are another anomaly, caused by sequestration and other factors, or the "new normal" that states can anticipate, Pattison said. So far, the Affordable Care Act has had little effect on budgets, since the law is still being put in place, but that will change once it is up and running.

"Almost a third of the money that states receive and spend and allocate comes from the federal government and a lot of that is from Medicaid, about 44 percent," Pattison said. □

Texas woman admits to sending ricin to Obama

NOMAAN MERCHANT

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A former actress from Texas pleaded guilty Tuesday to sending ricin-laced letters to Presi-

Richardson was arrested in June after authorities said she tried to implicate her estranged husband, Nathan Richardson, after he had filed for divorce.



Shannon Richardson is escorted to a Titus County Sheriff's car after a court appearance in Texarkana, Texas. Richardson pleaded guilty Tuesday to sending ricin-laced letters to President Barack Obama and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, under a deal that her attorney has said would cap prison time at 18 years.

(AP Photo/Curt Youngblood)

dent Barack Obama and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, under a deal that her attorney has said would cap prison time at 18 years.

Shannon Guess Richardson entered her plea in federal court in Texarkana, Texas, to a federal charge of possessing and producing a biological toxin.

Prosecutors say Shannon Richardson mailed three letters from New Boston, outside Texarkana, then went to police and claimed that her husband had done it.

Richardson, 35, has had minor roles in the television series "The Walking Dead" and the movie "The Blind Side." She also is the moth-

er of six children — including one child born prematurely while she was in custody this year.

Prosecutors say investigators noted inconsistencies in Richardson's statements and later learned that she had purchased materials online to produce ricin, a toxin that can cause respiratory failure if inhaled. She acknowledged in a signed plea agreement document filed Tuesday that she ordered castor beans online and learned how to process them into a substance used to make ricin.

She obtained an email address, a PayPal shopping account and a post office box in her husband's name without his knowledge, according to the document. On the morning of May 20,

she said, she waited for Nathan Richardson to go to work.

"After he left the house, I printed the mailing labels for President Barack Obama, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and Mark Glaze with The Raben Group," Richardson said in the document. Glaze is director of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Bloomberg's group advocating for tougher gun control. The letter to Obama, according to the document, read: "What's in this letter is nothing compared to what I've got in store for you Mr. president."

"You will have to kill me and my family before you get my guns," the letter read. "Anyone wants to come to my house will get shot in the face." □

Missing family found safe in Nevada

MICHELLE RINDELS

SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press

RENO, Nevada (AP) — A member of a search team on Tuesday found a couple and four young members of their families who had been missing in the frigid mountains of northern Nevada since Sunday, authorities said.

The people were taken to a hospital after they were found in good condition. Sheila Reitz of the Pershing County Sheriff's Office said a member of the public searching on the ground had located the group. Further details were not immediately available.

"The mood where I'm at's ecstatic," said Col. Tim Hahn, who commands the Nevada Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, which had six planes searching for the

group. "We are thrilled beyond words."

Aircraft and crews on the ground were searching for James Glanton, 34, his girlfriend Christina McIntee, 25, their two children Evan and Chloe Glanton, and Shelby Fitzpatrick and Tate McIntee, a niece and nephew of Christina McIntee. The children ranged in age from 3 to 10.

Overnight temperatures in the nearby town of Lovelock dipped to minus 16 degrees (minus 8.9 Celsius) during the search. Officials said the group had gone to the Seven Troughs area to play in the snow.

Authorities said about 200 people had joined the search roughly 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast of Reno.

Gov. Brian Sandoval tweeted about the discovery. □

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Something different

General Motors names first female chief executive

Continued from Front

His planned retirement was hastened, the company said, by his wife's recent cancer diagnosis.

Barra has worked for GM for 33 years and was most recently the executive vice president of global product development. She is considered a critical player in the overhaul of company's vehicle lineups around the world.

the mother of two children, joined GM in 1980 as a co-op student in the company's Pontiac division. An electrical engineer by training, she worked in a variety of engineering posts and managed an assembly plant, among other jobs, before being named head of the company's human resources department in 2009.

After being promoted by Akerson to lead GM's global product development

ra, who has helped oversee the development of their vehicles on a global scale," said Jared Rowe, president of the automobile research firm Kelley Blue Book.

The announcement of Akerson's retirement came a day after the Treasury Department said it had sold the last of the GM stock that taxpayers received in exchange for the government's \$49.5 billion bailout of the company.

bearer in the global auto industry," Akerson said.

GM said Akerson's successor as chairman of the board would be Theodore M. Solso, the former chairman and chief executive of Cummins, the engine manufacturer.

Barra was not immediately made available by GM for comment.

The choice of Barra as the next chief executive was not totally unexpected in Detroit, where she had been considered among a handful of internal candidates for the job.

Still, the selection of a woman to lead the nation's biggest auto company is sure to reverberate throughout the corporate world as a milestone for both GM and the industry.

"I never thought I'd see the day that a woman would head a car company - much less the biggest car company in America," said Michelle Krebs, an analyst with the auto research site Edmunds.com.

"But Mary Barra's elevation to CEO of General Motors is not just about filling a female quota," said Krebs. "Mary is an extremely competent automotive executive who has proven herself repeatedly."

The company's board met over the weekend to vote on Akerson's replacement. He told reporters that there had been brief consideration of going outside for a new chief executive, but the directors decided to focus on internal candidates and unanimously chose Barra.

"Mary was picked for her talent, not her gender," Akerson said.

He described Barra as highly experienced in management and product skills, but also as having "an ability with people." □



In this January 2013 photo, General Motors Senior Vice President Mary Barra is seen during presentation of the North American Car & Truck of the Year at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Barra was named GM CEO on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013, making her the first woman to lead a U.S. car company.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

The GM board approved Barra's selection and named her a director of the company.

"With an amazing portfolio of cars and trucks and the strongest financial performance in our recent history, this is an exciting time at today's GM," Barra said in the company statement. "I'm honored to lead the best team in the business and to keep our momentum at full speed."

Barra, who is married and

in 2011, Barra set out to streamline the company's historically bureaucratic vehicle development process. She has been an advocate of reducing the number of global vehicle platforms that GM uses around the world, an approach that saves money and reduces complexity among its product lines. "GM is in more than capable hands, as we've seen some of the best products released under Mary Bar-

Akerson was among the new directors that the government installed after the bailout. He became chief executive in 2010 and led the automaker through its initial public stock offering and subsequent turnaround.

"I will leave with great satisfaction in what we have accomplished, great optimism over what is ahead and great pride that we are restoring General Motors as America's standard-

13 plead guilty over attacking Paypal servers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Thirteen people have pleaded guilty to helping briefly disable online payment service provider Paypal as part of a protest that authorities say was organized by the hacking group Anonymous.

Ten of the defendants pleaded guilty Thursday to felony and misdemeanor charges of intentionally damaging a protected computer.

If they stay out of legal trouble, the U.S. Department of Justice plans to drop the felony charges, and the defendants will be sentenced to probation a year from now.

Three other defendants pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges in San Jose federal court and face similar sentences.

Authorities say the 13 defendants acknowledged taking part in a protest organized by Anonymous in December 2010 after the eBay-owned Paypal cut ties to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks when it released more than 700,000 leaked government documents.

Stanley Cohen, an attorney for one of the defendants, said the 13 were engaged in an act of civil disobedience that he believes is protected by First Amendment free speech guarantees. They pleaded guilty to misdemeanors and probation rather than risk a felony conviction and possible prison time, Cohen said.

"You got people here who engage in activity they believed was appropriate, responsible and necessary," said Cohen, who is based in New York. □



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US Financial Front:

American job openings reach 5-year high, a hopeful sign

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.

employers advertised the most job openings in more than five years in October, and the number of people quitting also reached a five-year high.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that job openings rose 1 percent to a seasonally adjusted 3.93 million. That is the highest figure since May 2008, three months after the Great Recession began.

And the number of workers who quit rose 2.5 percent to 2.39 million, the most since October 2008. More workers quitting can signal a healthy job market, because most of those people likely either have a new job or are confident they can find one.

Total hiring, though, slipped 2.6 percent to 4.5 million after reaching a five-year high in September. Still, overall hiring has risen 5.2 percent in the past year.

More hiring, job openings

and quits point to a more dynamic job market. That trend creates more opportunities for people out of work or looking for a new job.

Another positive sign in the report: Layoffs plunged 16 percent to 1.47 million, the lowest level on records dating to 2001. Still, while fewer layoffs are welcome, businesses need to step up hiring to more quickly reduce the still-high unemployment rate of 7 percent.

Job openings remain just below the 4 million figure that is thought to be consistent with a healthy job market. And employers usually hire about 5 million people each month in a normal economy.

The job market remains competitive, even though the competition is easing. There were 2.9 unemployed people, on average, for each available job in October. That's down from a ratio of nearly 7 to 1 in July 2009, just after



Employment opportunity banners stand in the foreground as retired U.S. Navy Chief Jerome Porter, of Atlanta, talks with a recruiter during a job fair for veterans at the VFW Post 2681, in Marietta, Ga. The government reported positive news on job openings and labor turnover for October, on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

the recession ended. In a healthy economy, the ratio is typically 2 to 1.

Other recent reports show

that businesses are adding jobs at a solid, steady pace. Employers added 203,000 positions in No-

vember, the government said Friday. The unemployment rate fell to a five-year low of 7 percent. Job gains have now averaged about 200,000 for the past four months.

Those figures reflect net payroll gains — the number of people hired minus those who were laid off, quit or retired. Tuesday's report on job openings and labor turnover provides more details than the monthly employment report.

Both Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Janet Yellen, who has been nominated to succeed him next year, have cited greater overall hiring and quits as key signs of the job market's improvement. □

US wholesale stockpiles grow 1.4%

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. wholesale businesses boosted their stockpiles in October by the most in two years as their sales rose sharply, encouraging signs for economic growth in the final three months of the year.

Wholesale stockpiles grew 1.4 percent in October, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. That's nearly triple the 0.5 percent gain in September and the biggest monthly gain since October 2011. Sales at the wholesale level increased 1 percent in October, the most in five months. Sales rose 0.8 percent in September.

Rising stockpiles boost growth because it means factories have produced more goods. Robust restocking drove roughly half of the 3.6 percent annualized economic growth in the July-September quarter.

Some economists had predicted that growth would slow in the October-December quarter to an annual rate of 2 percent or less as companies reduced their inventory building in response to slowing demand. But the strong rise in October suggests businesses expect to see solid sales in the coming months.

The gain could prompt some to rethink their forecasts. □



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Ukraine's president convenes 'roundtable' with little progress

Andrew E. Kramer

© 2013 New York Times

KIEV, Ukraine - Ukraine's embattled president, Viktor Yanukovych, who is facing the dual problems of a financial crisis and protesters in a central square here in the capital, convened Tuesday what his government is calling a round-table discussion of cultural figures and former politicians. Before the talks, Yanukovych strengthened his negotiating position by boosting the police presence in Kiev. While the main demonstration continued in the plaza, Independence Square, on Tuesday,

the police dislodged protesters from several smaller outlying camps they had erected in a district of government buildings, largely without violence.

Yanukovych was expected to meet with three former Ukrainian presidents, Leonid M. Kravchuk, Leonid D. Kuchma and Viktor A. Yushchenko. The format of the meeting and its name, the round table, appeared borrowed from the negotiations that defused the street protest movement here in 2004, known as the Orange Revolution.

Senior envoys including the European foreign af-



Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, second left, meets with his former counterpart Viktor Yushchenko, left, Leonid Kuchma, right, Leonid Kravchuk, second right, to discuss the situation in the country in Kiev, Ukraine, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013.

(AP Photo/Andrei Mosienko)

fairs chief, Catherine Ashton, and a U.S. assistant secretary of state, Victoria Nuland, arrived in Kiev to convey the message from Western governments that

the protests should not be dispersed violently. The renewed diplomatic maneuvering was intended to prevent a repeat of the bloodshed during a crackdown by the police in Kiev on Nov. 30, and to contain the widening civil uprising, which has plunged the nation into deep uncertainty. □

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U.N. to deliver aid to Syria via Iraq

NICK CUMMING-BRUCE

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GENEVA - U.N. relief agencies are preparing to make their first deliveries of aid from Iraq to Syria this week but it remains unclear whether this will prove a regular channel of assistance, the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday.

An airlift of 12 flights using Russian-built Ilyushin cargo aircraft is to start Thursday and last until Sunday delivering food and other assistance from Iraq to Kurdish areas of Syria's northeastern Hassakeh province, according to Amin Awad, the director of the Middle East and North Africa bureau at the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Relief agencies believe there are 50,000 to 60,000 people in need of assistance in Hassakeh, where conflict has obstructed access by humanitarian agencies. "It's certainly a welcome development for us, the humanitarian conditions there are getting worse," said Adrian Edwards, a spokesman for the refugee agency, citing U.N. estimates that 6.5 million people inside Syria have been driven from their homes by fighting.

In addition to the security challenges in delivering assistance to areas of conflict, international aid agencies have complained of bureaucratic obstacles and delays from the government in Damas-

cus in obtaining approval for relief convoys destined for populations trapped by fighting, and the agencies have pushed for more cross-border access from neighboring countries.

The high commissioner for refugees, António Guterres, is to meet Anne Richard, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for population, refugees, and migration, and officials from aid agencies in Geneva on Wednesday at the start of a two-day meeting. The gathering is aimed at bolstering international support for close to 29 million people around the world reportedly displaced by conflict and more than 30 million displaced by other disasters. □

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Violence kills 7 as Argentina celebrates democracy

MICHAEL WARREN

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Police strikes sowed chaos across many of Argentina's cities on Tuesday even as the nation celebrated 30 years of uninterrupted democracy. Politicians from left and right appealed for calm as looters kept stealing merchandise and business owners fought with roving mobs. Hospital and political authorities said at least seven people have been killed in a week of disturbances set off by a wave of police strikes demanding pay increases. They included a police officer in northern Chaco province who was struck by a bullet below his protective vest Tuesday, and a store owner whose burned body was found in the remains of his looted market in Buenos Aires

province last week.

The others allegedly died while looting. One young man was electrocuted while stealing from an appliance store in a rainstorm. Another fell off a motorcycle while carting off a television. A third died in a fist-fight inside a ruined store. Hundreds of other people have been injured and thousands of businesses damaged in the scattered violence, which continued Tuesday in many of Argentina's 23 provinces. In some cities, public transportation was shut down and even public hospitals were turning away non-emergency patients for fear of being looted.

The demands of striking police went far beyond pay hikes: The deal Buenos Aires Gov. Daniel Scioli reached with rebellious officers Monday night includes an



A man carries a piece of furniture he took from a store on the outskirts of San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013. Outbreaks of looting have spread across Argentina as mobs take advantage of strikes by police demanding pay raises to match inflation. The central government has dispatched federal police to trouble spots and appealed for an end to what some officials are calling treason.

(AP Photo/Julio Pantoja)

amnesty that would wipe out sanctions for many rule-breaking officers and make

them eligible for 14,000 promised promotions this month. It also enables offi-

cers who retired on 90 percent pay to return to work, effectively doubling their old salaries.

President Cristina Fernandez hasn't commented about the weeklong violence, leaving Jorge Capitanich, who took leave as Chaco's governor to become her Cabinet chief, to publicly shoulder the responsibility. Initially he blamed one of her political rivals, Cordoba Gov. Jose de la Sota, for failing to contain it.

But as the officer died in Capitanich's home city Tuesday, it was clear that no Argentine politician is immune. Capitanich joined de la Sota for a news conference condemning what they called treasonous acts by a minority of officers. □

French executive gets prison for defective breast implants

MAÏA de la BAUME

© 2013 New York Times

PARIS - A court in Marseille, France sentenced the founder of a French company Tuesday to four years in prison for selling hundreds of thousands of defective breast implants in more than 65 countries. Jean-Claude Mas, 74, the founder of Poly Implant Prothèse, and four of his former employees were found guilty last spring of aggravated fraud after their company used a less expensive, industrial-grade silicone to fill implants for a decade. The implants ruptured at a much higher rate than the industry norm, leaking silicone into body tissues.

During the trial, which involved 7,400 civil plaintiffs

and 300 lawyers, Mas acknowledged that his company had used a cheaper, unapproved product in its implants, but he argued that it was not harmful.

More than 16,000 women have had their implants removed since the scandal emerged in 2010. Poly Implant Prothèse, which was founded in 1991, was closed by the French authorities in March 2010.

In addition to imposing the maximum prison sentence on Mas, the court ordered him to pay a fine of 75,000 euros (\$103,000) and sentenced his former employees to between 18 months and three years in prison. Some of those sentences were suspended. Yves Haddad, Mas' lawyer, said his client would appeal. □

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Thai leader rejects demands that she quit

THOMAS FULLER

© 2013 New York Times

BANGKOK - Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Tuesday rejected demands by anti-government protesters that she step aside before the country's February elections.

"I cannot retreat any fur-

ters until a new government is elected.

The protesters, who have massed tens of thousands of people in Bangkok in their campaign to banish Yingluck and her powerful family from the country, have demanded that she relinquish her post in fa-

tism of the protesters' demands when it issued a statement Tuesday that said Washington "strongly supports democratic institutions and the democratic process in Thailand."

Yet the protests in Bangkok, which have left five people dead and hundreds

for rice farmers, have cemented strong support in the populous northern and northeastern parts of the country, but created great resentment in Bangkok and other areas where the opposition has traditionally been strong.

The protests have created a crisis of legitimacy for Thailand's democratic institutions, much as other countries in the region have been tested. In nearby Bangladesh, the main opposition party has blockaded major roads in the country and is boycotting elections scheduled for January. The country has been wracked by violent demonstrations that have left at least 60 people dead over the past two months.

In Cambodia, the opposition, which led protest marches across Phnom Penh on Tuesday, has boycotted Parliament since elections in July that independent election monitors say had numerous irregularities. And in Myanmar's nascent democracy the opposition has warned that elections scheduled for 2015 will be unfair unless there are changes to provisions in the constitution that bar the opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, from becoming president.

In Thailand, like in Bangladesh and Myanmar, there are lingering fears of military coups.

The leaders of Thailand's protests say they have little faith that Yingluck will not abuse the power of her incumbency in the run-up to the Feb. 2 elections. Protest leaders cite the appointment of senior civil servants friendly to the government and the tacit sympathies of the police toward the government.

Yet among its troubled neighbors, Thailand's opposition may have the weakest case in alleging that the system is stacked against them.

Two of the most powerful institutions in the country - the courts and the military - have often been hostile toward Thaksin and his allies. □

Pakistani doctor wins \$1 million to fight child deaths

REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Pakistani doctor won a \$1 million grant Tuesday to fight early child mortality in a small fishing village in southern Pakistan in a contest financed by an American entrepreneur to find innovative ways to save lives, The Caplow Children's Prize said.

A proposal by Anita Zaidi, who heads the pediatrics department at the Aga Khan University in the port city of Karachi, beat out more than 550 other applications from more than 70 countries. The prize was founded and funded by entrepreneur Ted Caplow to find impactful and cost-effective ways to save children's lives, according to a press release announcing the results.

Zaidi said in a telephone interview that her project will focus on reducing child mortality rates in Rehri Goth, on the outskirts of Karachi. According to Zaidi, 106 out of 1,000 children born in the town die before the age of five. That is almost double the worldwide under-five child mortality rate of 51 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011, according to UNICEF.

Few of the women in the area of roughly 40,000 people have access to medical care during pregnancy or money to pay for things like multivitamins, said Zaidi. There is no nearby hospital, and women usually give birth accompanied by a birthing attendant with little or no formal training.

When women do run into complications giving birth, the babies often die while the women seek medical care, the doctor said.

The money will be used in Rehri Goth to eliminate malnutrition among expectant and new mothers and their babies, ensure that children have access to primary health care and immunizations and train a group of local women at Aga Khan University to become midwives. □



Thailand Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra pauses as she talks to media after attending a Cabinet meeting, in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013. Shinawatra said Tuesday she would not resign ahead of national elections set for Feb. 2, despite opposition demands she step down as the caretaker head of government.

ther," Yingluck said on national television with a shaking voice and tear-filled eyes. "Please be fair to me."

There is no constitutional provision for Yingluck, who announced Monday that she would call fresh elections, to leave office before the elections. Thai law says that she and her Cabinet must serve as caretak-

ers of a royally appointed caretaker government.

The demands have been widely derided by scholars, even those who have long opposed Yingluck and her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, a former prime minister and the patriarch of the country's most influential political clan.

The U.S. State Department appeared to echo skep-

ticism of the protesters' demands when it issued a statement Tuesday that said Washington "strongly supports democratic institutions and the democratic process in Thailand."

(AP Photo /Manish Swarup)

of injured over the last two weeks, are a reflection of the growing skepticism by one segment of Thailand's population of the country's winner-takes-all parliamentary system that has allowed Thaksin's party to dominate the country's politics. The policies of Thaksin's party, including universal health care and guaranteed high prices

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French bill to push spying is under fire

SARAH DILORENZO

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The French government, which was among the most vocal critics of U.S. spying practices, is now coming under fire for trying to expand its own digital surveillance capabilities.

A law making its way through parliament would give French intelligence services access to telephone and Internet usage data that would let them locate and follow a target of a terrorism investigation in real time.

The law also expands the number of agents allowed to access this information to include those from the finance and budget ministries.

In addition, the law would give agents access not just to meta data about users from website hosts but allow them to seize content stored on websites and in clouds. In at least some cases, agents could request information not just to combat terrorism but also to fight industrial espionage.

Critics say the law expands the government's power without also expanding the checks on that power. They claim it could dissuade digital businesses from setting up in France. □

EU opens marathon talks on bank rescues

DAVID McHUGH

JOHN DAHLBURG

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Finance ministers of the European

rescue fund.

Joerg Asmussen, an executive board member at the European Central Bank, said Tuesday that

an agreement during the meeting of the 28-nation trade bloc's ministers.

Lithuania's finance minister, Rimantas Sadzius, who was



EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn, left, smiles as he talks with Swedish Finance Minister Anders Borg, right, and Executive Board member of the European Central Bank Jorg Asmussen at the start of an Ecofin meeting at the European Council building in Brussels, Tuesday Dec. 10, 2013.

(AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

Union on Tuesday held marathon talks on how to create a central agency that can rescue banks without using taxpayer money. One major hitch holding up agreement has been how to finance a fund for banks that are in trouble or are insolvent. Germany has wanted to coordinate efforts by national authorities; the French have been seeking a single EU-wide

recent negotiations have narrowed differences. But he said he didn't expect

chairing the gathering, was more bullish. At the start of the talks, which were ex-

pected to last 18 hours or more, he said there were "strong chances" of a deal by the end of the day.

The unified banking regulations, which would govern banks in the 17 countries using the euro currency and any other EU members that opt in, are designed to spare national governments from having to raid public coffers to keep badly-run banks afloat. The rescue fund would be financed by a levy on banks, and not public money.

The goals are "financial stability in our banks and making sure the taxpayer doesn't have to put in more money every time as soon as a bank is in trouble," said Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem.

Pierre Moscovici, France's finance minister, acknowledged the issues still to be resolved were difficult. But he said he was hoping for a broad-brush "political agreement" Tuesday even if he and the other ministers have to return to Brussels next week to fill in some blanks or haggle over fine print. □

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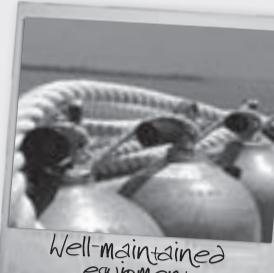
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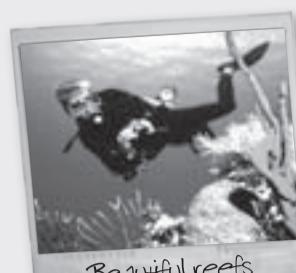
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US-led Pacific trade zone talks end without deal

SINGAPORE (AP) — The United States and 11 other nations negotiating a free trade zone stretching from Chile to Japan failed to reach a final agreement at talks in Singapore, but indicated they were closing in on a landmark deal.

The U.S.-led agreement is a major part of President Barack Obama's foreign policy shift toward Asia but has been snagged by disagreements between countries on market access, especially for agricultural products, environmental protections and intellectual property.

Washington had said it hoped the trade agreement would be completed by the end of the year.

After four days of meetings in Singapore, ministers issued a statement Tuesday saying that "substantial progress" had been made on finalizing the Trans-Pacific Partnership. It said they had identified "potential landing zones" for most of the outstanding issues and would meet again next month. Deborah Elms, a professor at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, said the tone of the statement suggested negotiators have a "pretty clear understanding" of what a final agreement

would look like. Elms, who follows the negotiations, said she expected a deal to be finalized in March. Others have predicted similar.

"It's easy to get a quick agreement: you just drop the level of ambition. There

standard" agreement. Negotiators are aiming to reduce tariffs on goods and services to close to zero. They are also trying to ensure that foreign companies operating in those markets have a level playing field with state-owned

tions including the United States and Japan. The agreement would encompass around one-third of world trade and 800 million people. Proponents say it should lead to greater economic growth. Any deal will have to be



U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman, left, talks to Uruguay's Vice Foreign Minister Luis Porto, right, and Brazil's Foreign Minister Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, center, during the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Bali, Indonesia.

(AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim)

was no temptation to do that," U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman told reporters in a conference call after the talks. He said the 12 countries are focused on reaching a "high-

ones, and that their products are not counterfeited. The block includes developing countries with large state-owned industries such as Vietnam and Malaysia as well as rich na-

ratified by the U.S. Congress, where Democratic lawmakers in particular are calling for tough provisions on environmental and labor standards and against currency manipulation. □

Libya to open oil terminals in December

ESAM MOHAMED
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The Libyan militia that shut down most of the country's oil terminals for months causing the loss of millions of dollars said Tuesday that terminals will reopen on Dec. 15. Ibrahim Jedran, leader of the militia, made his remarks after meeting influential tribal leaders and mediators of the al-Maghbar tribe in eastern Libya.

Jedran, a former rebel in 2011's eight-month war against longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, reiterated earlier demands to form a committee to redistribute oil revenues between the country's three main regions.

The closure of the terminals was first justified as an attempt to curb corruption in oil sales, however militia leaders pressed the government to change the country's political system and distribute oil revenues more equally.

Since Gadhafi's fall, Libya has fallen hostage to militia groups challenging the central government and threatened its transition to democratic rule.

Jedran, head of the so-called Political Bureau of Barqa, is a leading advocate of a federal state in which each region has some autonomy as was the case from 1951 until 1963 under King Idris when Libya was divided into three regions: Cyrenaica, or Barqa, Tripolitania and Fezzan. Like other Libyan regions, easterners have long complained of discrimination by the central government in Tripoli. He added, "if the government didn't respond, the Barqa Political Bureau would have had another position." □

Activists, families protest Kashmir disappearances

AIJAZ HUSSAIN
Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Activists and families staged sit-in protests in Indian-held Kashmir on Tuesday to demand justice for torture and rape victims as well as answers about how 8,000 people allegedly disappeared in the conflict-ridden Himalayan territory. For years, rights groups have accused Indian forces of using systematic abuse and unjustified ar-

rests to intimidate Kashmir residents, many of whom oppose India's rule over the territory disputed with Pakistan.

The regional government says the allegations are mostly separatist propaganda meant to demonize troops. It has acknowledged that 2,305 people have gone missing in the past 20 years, but says most had crossed into neighboring Pakistan for weapons training. In a Srinagar park,

more than 100 people sat for hours Tuesday with placards reading "Justice denied" and "Supreme Court: Does 8,000 disappearances concern you?" Another four dozen or so people gathered in another Srinagar park with photos of family members who they say have vanished at the hands of Indian troops since 1989, when separatist Kashmiris launched an armed rebellion against Indian rule.

The uprising and subsequent Indian crackdown killed 68,000 people, though the conflict has largely subsided in recent years. Most anti-India opposition is now seen in street protests that regularly pit rock-throwing youths against government forces. Emergency laws remain in force, however, giving hundreds of thousands of Indian soldiers stationed in Kashmir authority to shoot suspects on sight. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

At T.H. Palm & Company:

The 9th Annual Girls' Night Out was a resounding success

PALM BEACH -- Champagne and butler-passed hors d'oeuvres welcomed the girls on their night out, at T.H. Palm & Company, street side, Playa Linda Beach Resort.

Invited guests, including Minister Michelle Hooiboen-Winklaar, came early and stayed late, socializing, sipping, nibbling and shopping.

The event offered a dash of Sanity, in a period of Insan-



cultad, Edmund E. Harms Foundation and Telefon pa Hubentud Aruba Catered by Barney's and Taste of Belgium, the 9th annual Girls' Night Out, turned out to be the busiest to date. And for those who missed out, you may drop in any day, as new gift ideas are now on display in the beautifully merchandise store. □



ity, with Managing Director Jodi Tobman and her sales associates in white floral head-wreaths, meeting and greeting clients who came to preview the exciting new gifts of the Christmas season.

During the season of giving, it is good to remember that the store supports the island's charities via its Tik-

kun Olam, Repair of the World program, and that by shopping with the Salamander Group you also contribute to very worthy projects such as Fundacion Autismo Aruba, Koningen Wilhelmina Fonds voor de Kankerbestrijding Aruba, Fundacion pa nos Grandinan, Fundacion pa Henhe Muhe den Difi-



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PALM BEACH -- Don't pack away those summer whites--the Aruba Tourism Authority keeps white in season year-round with the "Little White Dress Night" on the One Happy Island. Every Monday, Aruba's hottest bars, restaurants and nightclubs offer exclusive specials and offers to all visitors donning white, and now the Westin Resort & Casino is inviting guests on the island to join in on the fun at the terrace lounge, Sirocco.

This past Monday, ladies who dressed in white received a free welcome cocktail in the Westin's Sirocco Lounge, and everyone enjoyed live music by guitarist Ernesto. The occa-

sion also marked the local product launch of Moet Ice Champagne, where guests sipped the crisp bubbly paired with fresh, exotic fruits. "Monday nights in Aruba are getting a makeover this fall, and we encourage ladies and men to pack their white clothes and join the party," said Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes. "'Little White Dress Night' is intended to be a more vibrant, Caribbean-inspired take on the ever-popular 'Little Black Dress Nights,' and we hope visitors of all ages will get into the spirit and take advantage of the great deals offered by our fantastic island partners." □

At the Divi Phoenix: Loyal visitors honored by ATA!



PALM BEACH - Recently a group of loyal Aruba visitors were honored at the Divi Phoenix. The ceremony was conducted by Jonathan Boekhoudt with Aruba Tourism Authority in the presence of Pedro Vargas and Avril from the Divi Phoenix. The honorees were: Joanne & John Robbins, Marla & Jim Monge, Sharon & Don Abram, Michael Marsh & Jeffery Pinkerton and Minna Makkonen. □

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Caribbean Queen for December is Local Artist Faustta Luna



PALM BEACH - The Caribbean Queen boutique at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall is proud to introduce its Caribbean Queen for the month of December 2013, artist Faustta Luna, showing her handmade crafts in the store.



Born and raised in Mexico, the artist has been passionate about art, especially painting and handmade crafts, since she was a little girl. Her parents motivated her to follow her dream and continue to develop her innate artistic talents, which she inherited from her grandmother, an accomplished accessory designer. □

ist the opportunity to show her talent, and the Island has also inspired her to continue creating new art. She is proud to share her passion, as well as her art and accessories, under her own label, Faustta, La Mexicana, at the Caribbean Queen, at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, through the month of December 2013.

The Caribbean Queen Boutique earmarks a per-



centage of all sales to the repair of the world, Tikkun Olam, an age-old Kabalah concept. The funds collected are given quarterly to not-for-profit local organizations, an ongoing effort to do good and serve the community. All the foundations served with donations from the Caribbean Queen Boutique are dedicated to the promotion of art on the island and artisan education. □

John & Anette Ferranti honored at the Marriot Surf Club

PALM BEACH - Recently Jonathan Boekhoudt with Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to present John & Anette Ferranti with the "Goodwill Ambassador Certificate" to commemorate 40 consecutive visits to our beautiful island. The Ferranti's love Aruba for many reasons, but the main one is for the friendliness of its inhabitants. The ceremony was held at the Surf Club in presence of Luzdary and Josephine from the Marriot. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Walker lifts Bobcats past Warriors 115-111

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)

(AP) — Kemba Walker scored 27 of his 31 points in the second half as the Charlotte Bobcats ruined Stephen Curry's homecoming with a wire-to-wire 115-111 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night.

Curry overcame a slow start to finish with a season-high 43 points, 32 of them coming in the second half. Curry, a Charlotte native who burst on the national scene while playing at nearby Davidson College, scored 19 points in the fourth quarter, including a 27-footer with a hand in his face, to cut the Bobcats' lead to 111-109 with 11 seconds left. But the Warriors couldn't contain Walker, and the point guard hit four free throws in the final 11 seconds to seal the victory. Gerald Henderson had 24 points and Josh McRoberts had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Bobcats, who won their second straight game.

KINGS 112, MAVERICKS 97
SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — DeMarcus Cousins had 32 points and 19 rebounds and Derrick Williams scored a career-high

31 to pace Sacramento to the victory over Dallas.

Earlier in the day, the Kings completed a seven-player deal with Toronto that brought them Rudy Gay, Aaron Gray and Quincy Acy. Greivis Vasquez, Patrick Patterson, John Salmons and Chuck Hayes went to the Raptors.

Using just 10 players, the Kings led by 19 points after three quarters and by as many as 24 points in the fourth in winning their second straight.

Monta Ellis had 21 points for the Mavericks, who had won three straight, including the last two on the road. The loss also ended a five-game win streak against the Kings.

CLIPPERS 94, 76ERS 83

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Blake Griffin scored 26 points and Chris Paul added 25 points and 13 assists as short-handed Los Angeles defeated Philadelphia.

DeAndre Jordan had 11 points and a season-high 21 rebounds, and Jared Dudley scored 10 points for the Clippers, who won their second straight. The Clippers are 2-1 on a seven-game road trip.

Continued on Page 20



Charlotte Bobcats' Kemba Walker, right, drives past Golden State Warriors' David Lee, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Dec. 9, 2013. The Bobcats won 115-111.

Associated Press



The sun is reflected in a statue with the Olympic rings during the executive board's meeting, next to the IOC headquarters, in Lausanne, Switzerland, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013.

Associated Press

Football tiny step closer to Olympic Games

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)

American football took a small step closer to potential inclusion in the Olympics on Tuesday.

The IOC's executive board granted provisional recognition to the international association that oversees the American brand of the sport.

The International Federation of American Football (IFAF) had 64 member nations spanning six continents.

USA Football governs the sport in the United States and is associated with the NFL.

A vote on approving football for the Summer Games

could take place as early as 2017, with the possibility of the sport joining the Olympics in 2024.

IOC Sports Director Christophe Dubi praised football's federation for demonstrating "strong youth appeal and making great progress in developing their sport around the world." □

McCown leads Bears past Cowboys 45-28

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Josh McCown threw a career-high four touchdown passes and the Chicago Bears scored on their first eight possessions to grab a share of the NFC North division lead with a 45-28 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on a frigid Monday night. NFL Roundup

The Bears (7-6) pulled even with the Detroit Lions in the division race on a night when the game-time temperature was just 8 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 13 Celsius) and the wind chill factor was minus 9 Fahrenheit (minus 23 Celsius).

The conditions, however, didn't stop McCown from throwing for 348 yards or keep the Bears from run-

ning away with a lopsided victory after consecutive losses.

Alshon Jeffery's leaping catch between two defenders in the corner of the end zone in the closing seconds of the second quarter gave the Bears a 24-14 lead, and they continued to dominate in the second half after a gut-wrenching overtime loss at Minnesota last week.

McCown, making his fourth straight start with Jay Cutler sidelined by a high left ankle sprain, completed 27 of 36 passes.

Brandon Marshall caught six passes for 100 yards, and Jeffery added 84 yards receiving after breaking his own team record the previous week with 249. □



Chicago Bears quarterback Josh McCown (12) pitches the ball to Chicago Bears running back Matt Forte (22) during the first half of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Monday, Dec. 9, 2013, in Chicago.

Associated Press



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 CASINO AND SHOPS

Perry leads Ducks' 5-2 rout of Islanders

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Corey Perry scored two goals and captain Ryan Getzlaf extended his point streak to 12 games in the Anaheim Ducks' 5-2 victory over the spiraling New York Islanders on Monday night. Cam Fowler had his first career short-handed goal and added two assists. Saku Koivu scored his first goal in nearly two months in the Ducks' third consecutive win and the Islanders' 10th straight loss.

Perry scored a goal in his career-best sixth straight game late in the second period, and added a power-play goal in the third to clinch the sixth 20-goal season of his career.

Andrew Cogliano also scored, and Jonas Hiller made 35 saves for Anaheim. John Tavares and Thomas Vanek scored for the Islanders, who also have lost 10 consecutive road games since Nov. 1.

Anaheim improved to 11-0-2 at home, still the only NHL team without a regulation home loss this season.

PENGUINS 2, BLUE JACKETS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Evgeni Malkin scored in his return



New York Islanders right wing Michael Grabner, second from left, of Austria, runs into Anaheim Ducks goalie Jonas Hiller, of Switzerland, along with defenseman Hampus Lindholm, left, of Sweden, and defenseman Mark Fristic as he tries to score during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, Dec. 9, 2013, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

from a lower-body injury and Sidney Crosby added his 16th goal as Pittsburgh beat Columbus.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 32 shots for the Penguins, who won their sixth straight home game. Malkin extended his point streak to 10 games.

Malkin missed two games last week after being in-

jured during a morning skate. He scored at 4:16 into the second period for his eighth goal of the season.

Crosby pushed his season-point total to an NHL-best 43 when he deflected in a shot by Pascal Dupuis midway through the third.

The Blue Jackets had won three of four.

CANUCKS 2, HURRICANES 0
VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Eddie Lack made 31 saves in his first NHL shutout as Vancouver beat Carolina.

With starting goalie Roberto Luongo getting the night off, the rookie earned his fourth win of the season in his first appearance on home ice.

Christopher Tanev and Jannik Hansen, into an empty net, scored for Vancouver. Chris Higgins had two assists.

Justin Peters made 24 saves for Carolina, which had a three-game winning streak ended.

SENATORS 5, FLYERS 4, SO
OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Jason Spezza scored the winning goal in the shootout to lift Ottawa over Philadelphia.

The Senators earned their first shootout win of the season after dropping their first four in the tiebreaker. Ottawa ended a five-game skid at home.

Clarke MacArthur had two regulation goals for the Senators, and Patrick Wiercioch and Kyle Turris also scored. Craig Anderson made 25 saves.

Michael Raffl netted his first NHL goal, and Jakub Voracek, Luke Schenn and Kimmo Timonen also scored for the Flyers. Steve Mason stopped 30 shots.

In other NHL games it was Ottawa 5, Philadelphia 4, SO; Pittsburgh 2, Columbus 1;

Vancouver 2, Carolina 0; and Anaheim 5, N.Y. Islanders 2. □

NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 18

Los Angeles played without J.J. Redick (injuries to right hand and wrist), Reggie Bullock (sprained left ankle), Maalik Wayns (left knee) and Matt Barnes (torn retina in left eye).

Evan Turner scored 25 points and Thaddeus Young added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Sixers, who struggled once again without Michael Carter-Williams. The Sixers are 1-6 without their floor leader, who missed his third straight game with a skin infection.

NUGGETS 75, WIZARDS 74
WASHINGTON (AP) — Wilson Chandler scored 17 points, Nate Robinson added 16, and Kenneth Faried had a key block and transition dunk with 33 seconds left to lift Denver

past Washington.

Washington had three possessions after Faried put Denver ahead, but John Wall missed a layup, Trevor Ariza missed a 3-pointer, Chandler blocked a layup try by Garrett Temple, and Robinson stripped the ball from Wall in the closing seconds. Chandler also had eight rebounds to help the Nuggets rally from 12 points down in the second half, and Robinson helped the Denver reserves outscore their depleted Washington counterparts 34-5.

Wall finished with 20 points and eight assists, Marcin Gortat scored 16 points, and Trevor Booker added 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Wizards.

TRAIL BLAZERS 105, JAZZ 94
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points and Damian Lillard added 17 to propel Portland past Utah.



Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin, left, dives for a loose ball against Philadelphia 76ers' Spencer Hawes during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 9, 2013, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Robin Lopez chipped in 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Wesley Matthews added 16 points for the Blazers, who bounced back with their second win over Utah this season after losing to Dallas on Saturday.

day to end a four-game winning streak.

Reserve Alec Burks had 20 points for the Jazz, who dropped their fourth game in a row. Enes Kanter added 19 points and Gordon Hayward chipped in 17 for

Utah.

GRIZZLIES 94, MAGIC 85
MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Zach Randolph had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Jon Leuer added 16 points and a career-best 12 boards to lead Memphis over Orlando.

Mike Conley had 13 points and Jerryd Bayless finished with 11 points, including a late 3-pointer to preserve the win and end a two-game slide. Conley also had seven assists.

Andrew Nicholson and Jameer Nelson led the Magic with 19 points apiece. Nicholson also grabbed 11 rebounds in Orlando's sixth straight loss.

In other NBA games it was L.A. Clippers 94, Philadelphia 83; Denver 75, Washington 74; Charlotte 115, Golden State 111; Memphis 94, Orlando 85; Portland 105, Utah 94; and Sacramento 112, Dallas 97. □

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Sports stars, at U.N., speak out against homophobia

CARA ANNA

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Former professional basketball player Jason Collins and tennis great Martina Navratilova on Tuesday urged world sports bodies like the International Olympic Committee and FIFA to take gay rights into consideration when awarding major sporting events.

The two openly gay athletes spoke at a special United Nations event celebrating International Human Rights Day.

They focused in part on the upcoming Winter Olympics in Russia, which passed a law this summer banning homosexual "propaganda." The law has drawn international condemnation and sparked calls for a boycott, though no nations have threatened to pull their athletes.

Navratilova, who lost lucrative endorsements when she came out in 1981, said she doesn't support boycotts of any kind. But she said the IOC is "putting its head in the sand" and criticized FIFA, the world soccer body, for awarding the 2022 World Cup to Qatar. "Nobody's talking about Qatar and the World Cup. You can get a jail term there," she said of consensual gay sex in the Persian Gulf nation. In six other countries, including Saudi Arabia, simply being gay is punishable by death, she

said.

"Gays and lesbians seem to be the last group it's seen as OK to pick on," she said.

The two athletes also joked about how times have changed for gay rights in the U.S.

"When Collins came out this year, he got a phone call from President Obama congratulating him," Navratilova said. "Well, in 1981, Reagan was president. I didn't get that phone call."

"It's funny, right before President Obama, it was Oprah Winfrey," Collins added. "Like a surreal experience."

Collins almost shyly thanked Navratilova for being so outspoken.

"I'm sitting next to one of my idols," he said.

North America's major pro sports leagues are still awaiting an openly gay athlete. Collins, 35, was prepared to become the first when he came out after the NBA regular season had ended. The aging reserve player and free agent has not been signed by another team, though he says he stays in shape and hopes to return to the NBA.

Collins said the league is doing a "great job changing the culture of sport" in regard to gay players.

In a recorded message, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also praised straight athletes who speak out against homophobia. "They understand an abuse against any of us is an affront to all," he said. In a related event Tuesday, U.S. ambassador Samantha Power called the Russian law "as outrageous as it is dangerous."

Power, who was meeting with dozens of gay activists from around the world, said

78 countries still have laws that criminalize consensual sex between adults.

"To deny gays and lesbians the right to live freely ... is in fact barbarian," Power said.

This year was the first time the U.N. held a ministerial meeting on LGBT issues, with Secretary of State John Kerry attending. "That's progress," Power said.

Russian journalist and gay right activist Masha Gessen then read part of the Russian law on gay "propaganda" and said, "It actually enshrines second-class citizenship and makes it a crime to talk about equality."

Zambian activist Juliet Mphande listened to Gessen's comments and said, "I imagine Russia to be an African country right now." She said at least six people from her country's gay community had been arrested this year. □



In this photo provided by the United Nations, tennis legend Martina Navratilova touches hands with former National Basketball Association player Jason Collins during a news conference at United Nations headquarters, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013.

Associated Press

Hollywood man arrested for pro coach prank calls

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Los Angeles man who placed prank calls about job vacancies for prominent professional coaches was arrested Monday, police said. Kenneth Tarr was arrested at his home in Hollywood and booked on suspicion of felony eavesdropping, police spokeswoman Sally Madera said. The charge involves recording phone conversations without the consent of the people on the calls, Madera said.

Tarr, 32, was being held on \$20,000 bail, LA County jail records showed.

Madera would give no further details on the calls or

identify the victims, saying only that Tarr pretended to be somebody else on the calls. But LAPD Lt. Mark Reina told NBC news, which first reported the arrest, that the two-month investigation "includes coaches from across professional sports."

San Bernardino County sheriff's detectives and National Football League investigators were assisting in the continuing investigation and more victims were being sought based on a search warrant that had been served, Reina said.

Police did not know if Tarr had retained an attorney. A phone message left at a

number listed in his name was not immediately returned. In October, University of Southern California athletic director Pat Haden said two people pretending to be school representatives had contacted two coaches and tried to discuss the Trojans' football coaching vacancy.

Haden said one of the pranksters repeatedly tried to speak to an unnamed member of the Denver Broncos' coaching staff about the USC opening.

A person impersonating a school representative contacted Tony Dungy, the former Tampa Bay and Indianapolis coach. □



Study says many lung cancer tumors prove harmless

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — A provocative study found that nearly 1 in 5 lung tumors detected on CT scans are probably so slow-growing that they would never cause problems.

These were not false-positives — suspicious results that turn out upon further testing not to be lung cancer, the world's No. 1 cause of cancer deaths. These were indeed cancerous tumors, but ones that caused no symptoms and were unlikely ever to become deadly, the researchers said.

Still, the results are not likely to change how doctors treat lung cancer.

For one thing, the disease is usually diagnosed after symptoms develop, when tumors show up on an ordinary chest X-ray and are potentially life-threatening.

Also, doctors don't know yet how to determine which symptomless tumors found on CT scans might become dangerous, so they automatically treat the cancer aggressively.

The findings underscore the need to identify biological markers that would help doctors determine which tumors are harmless and which ones require treatment, said Dr. Edward Patz, Jr., lead author and a radiologist at Duke University Medical Center. He is among researchers working to do just that.



In this June 3, 2010, file photo, Dr. Steven Birnbaum works with a patient in a CT scanner at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center in Nashua, N.H.

Associated Press

A leader of an influential government-appointed health panel agreed.

"Putting the word 'harmless' next to cancer is such a foreign concept to people," said Dr. Michael LeFevre, co-chairman of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

The panel recently issued a draft proposal recommending annual CT scans for high-risk current and former heavy smokers —

echoing advice from the American Cancer Society. A final recommendation is pending, but LeFevre said the panel had already assumed that screening might lead to overdiagnosis.

"The more we bring public awareness of this, then the more informed decisions might be when people decide to screen or not," LeFevre said. He called the study "a very important contribution," but said doctors will face a challenge in trying to explain the results to patients.

In testimonials, patients often say lung cancer screening via CT scans cured them, but the study suggests that in many cases, "we cured them of a disease we didn't need to find in the first place," LeFevre said.

The study was published Monday in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine. Worldwide, there are about 1.5 million lung cancer deaths annually.

The new study is an analysis of data from the National Lung Cancer Screening Trial — National Cancer

Institute research involving 53,452 Americans at high risk for lung cancer who were followed for about six years.

Half of them got three annual low-dose CT scans — a type of X-ray that is much more sensitive than the ordinary variety — and half got three annual conventional chest X-rays.

During six years of follow-up, 1,089 lung cancers were diagnosed in CT scan patients, versus 969 in those who got chest X-rays.

That would suggest CT scans are finding many early cases of lung cancer that may never advance to the point where they could be spotted on an ordinary chest X-ray.

An earlier report on the study found that 320 patients would need to get CT screening to prevent one lung cancer death.

The new analysis suggests that for every 10 lives saved by CT lung cancer screening, almost 14 people will have been diagnosed with a lung cancer that would never have caused any harm, said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld, the cancer society's

deputy chief medical officer.

He said that is a higher rate of overdiagnosis than he would have predicted, but that the study shows how much understanding of cancer has evolved. Decades ago, "every cancer was a bad cancer," he said.

Now it's known that certain cancers, including many prostate cancers, grow so slowly that they never need treatment.

The American College of Radiology said in statement Monday that the earlier study showed lung cancer screening significantly reduces lung cancer deaths in high-risk patients and that the benefit "significantly outweighs the comparatively modest rate of overdiagnosis" found in the new analysis.

Low-dose CT scans are the only test shown to reduce lung cancer deaths in high-risk smokers, the radiology group said, adding, "Overdiagnosis is an expected part of any screening program and does not alter these facts." □

Europe: Diet sweetener aspartame is safe in cola

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The European Food Safety Authority has found that the artificial sweetener aspartame is safe for people to consume at the levels currently used in diet soft drinks.

After conducting a major review of evidence, the agency said Tuesday it has ruled out any "potential risk of aspartame causing damage to genes and inducing cancer."

The finding will be welcome

news to Coca Cola Co., which recently launched an advertising campaign to dispel fears about Diet Coke after other studies showed that aspartame might be dangerous, leading to a fall in sales.

Aspartame, the sweetener used in Diet Coke, is also known under the brand name NutraSweet.

The ESFA, the European Union's food risk assessment agency, is based in Parma, Italy. □

Students' robotic arm can make you stronger

KATHY MATHESON

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Need a hand lifting something? A robotic device invented by University of Pennsylvania engineering students can help its wearer carry an additional 40 pounds (18 kilograms).

Titan Arm looks and sounds like part of a superhero's costume. But its creators say it's designed for ordinary people — those who need either physical rehabilitation or a little extra muscle for their job.

In technical terms, the apparatus is an un tethered, upper-body exoskeleton; to the layman, it's essentially a battery-powered arm brace attached to a backpack. Either way, Titan Arm's cost-efficient design has won the team accolades and at least \$75,000 in prize money.

"They built something that people can relate to," said Robert Carpick, chairman of Penn's mechanical engineering department. "And of course it appeals clearly to what we've all seen in so many science-fiction movies of superhuman strength being endowed by an exoskeleton."

The project builds on existing studies of such body equipment, sometimes called "wearable robots."

Research companies have built lower-body exoskeletons that help paralyzed people walk, though current models aren't approved for retail and can cost \$50,000 to \$100,000. The Penn students were moved by the power of that concept — restoring mobility to those who have

through these types of injuries, we just kept on getting more and more motivated," said Parrotta, now in graduate school at the university.

So for their senior capstone project last year, Parrotta and classmates Elizabeth Beattie, Nick McGill and Niko Vladimirov set out to

18 pounds — less than the backpack that Beattie usually carries. A handheld joystick controls motorized cables that raise and lower the arm; sensors measure the wearer's range of motion to help track rehab progress. Since its unveiling, Titan Arm has won the \$10,000 Intel Cornell Cup

ner," McGill said.

Experts say the aging population represents a potentially big customer base for exoskeletons, which originally were researched for military applications.

"There is certainly a market, but it's slowly emerging because the systems are not perfect as yet," said Paolo

Bonato, director of the Motion Analysis Lab at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston.

Titan Arm's design impressed Yong-Lae Park, an assistant professor of robotics at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh who watched a video demonstration. He noted, though, that its low cost represent parts only, not the salaries or marketing built into the price of other products.

Park's research is focused on making exoskeletons less noticeable — "more like a Spider-Man suit than an Iron Man suit," he said. The Titan team

hopes to refine their prototype, although three members are now busy with graduate studies at Penn and one is working on the West Coast. Among the considerations, Parrotta said, are different control strategies and more innovative materials and manufacturing. And, of course, a second arm. □



In this Friday, Dec. 6, 2013 photo, Nick McGill wears the Titan Arm as he poses at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

suffered traumas — as well as the idea of preventing injuries in those who perform repetitive heavy-lifting tasks, said team member Nick Parrotta.

"When we started talking to physical therapists and prospective users, or people who have gone

develop an affordable, lightweight suit for the right arm. They modeled pieces using 3-D printers and computer design programs, eventually making most components out of aluminum, Beattie said.

The final product cost less than \$2,000 and weighs

USA and the \$65,000 James Dyson Award. The resulting publicity generated a slew of interest from potential users, including grandparents who find it hard to lift their grandchildren.

"We found out that some people can't even lift a cast-iron pan to cook din-

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Stocks lower after record; banks in focus

KEN SWEET
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks fell modestly Tuesday as investors took a breather from a market that notched yet another record high the day before. The market has hit several all-time highs in recent months, but with the

the year, to close out positions, sell off poor-performing stocks and try to make portfolios look as good as they possibly can when they mail their year-end statements to investors. On Wall Street, the practice is sometimes called "window dressing."

The Dow Jones industrial

Rule, which bars banks from betting on the market with their own money. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other federal agencies approved the rule, which will go into effect by July 2015 for the nation's largest banks.

to scale back its stimulus program in the coming months, but few investors expect it will do it next week so close to the end of the year.

Economists expect the Fed to start pulling back, or "tapering," its economic stimulus in the first three months of 2014. "No matter

how you look at it, tapering is on its way," said Quincy Crosby, market strategist with Prudential Financial. Twitter jumped \$2.85, or 6 percent, to \$51.99 after the company announced a new service called "tailored audiences," a platform will let advertisers focus on a specific group of people and target ads to them.

In other corporate news, Lululemon Athletica's founder said he would relinquish the company's chairmanship after his comments about the body type of potential customers caused a backlash. The yoga apparel retailer fell \$1.22, or 2 percent, to \$69.12. General Motors named Mary Barra as its next CEO. She will replace Dan Akerson and will be the first woman to run a major U.S. car company. GM slipped 50 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$40.40. The U.S. government also said Tuesday that it had sold the last of its stake in the automaker, which it acquired following GM's 2009 bankruptcy and restructuring. □



Traders gather at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Dec. 9, 2013. The stock market is opening little changed following last week's strong U.S. jobs report.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

holiday season and end of the year approaching many investors expect the market to be calm as 2013 winds down. "It's quiet, and the only trading that will go on the rest of this year will be people selling for tax reasons and window dressing," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer for BMO Private Bank, which manages \$66 billion of assets. It's a common practice for portfolio managers, in the last couple weeks of

average fell 52.40 points, or 0.3 percent, to 15,973.13. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 5.75 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,802.62. The index hit an all-time high Monday.

The Nasdaq composite lost 8.26 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,060.49.

Banking stocks were mostly higher after investors got some clarity on new regulations.

Federal regulators voted to approve the Volcker

Goldman Sachs increased \$2.06, or 1.2 percent, to \$169.73 and Morgan Stanley rose 38 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$30.77.

The Volcker Rule is part of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law passed in 2010 in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

One of the few remaining events on the economic calendar this year is the Federal Reserve's two-day policy meeting next week. The Fed is widely expected

Lululemon brand founder stepping down as chairman

NEW YORK (AP) — The founder of Lululemon is stepping down as chairman after raising ire with his comments about the body types of potential buyers of the retailer's yoga pants. The company also said Tuesday that it is appointing Laurent Potdevin as its next CEO. He succeeds Christine Day, who announced in June that she planned to resign.

Chip Wilson said in a recent television interview that some women's bodies "just don't actually work" for Lululemon pants. He also said that thigh rubbing over time will cause the pilling and poor performance of the pants.

Lululemon was receiving complaints about the sheeress of some of its pants, which made them see-through at times. Customers also complained of pilling after a few months of wear — or even just a few uses — and about holes and seams coming apart. The retailer pulled its popular yoga pants from store shelves in the spring, blaming problems on a style change and production issues. New pants have since hit stores, but the sheeress complaints have continued, in addition to the new gripes about wear and tear.

Wilson did seem to apologize to Lululemon's workers for the criticism his comments received, but didn't retract his original statements. Analysts that follow the company believe Wilson alienated some core customer and potentially opened a door in the lucrative market to rivals like Nike, Under Armour, Athleta and others.

Spending on workout clothes jumped 7 percent to \$31.6 billion during the 12-month period that ended in August from the same period a year ago. That compares with a 1 percent rise in spending for other clothing to about \$169.2 billion.

The Canadian company named lead director Michael Casey as chairman. □

Fifth & Pacific selling Lucky Brand for \$225M

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifth & Pacific is selling its Lucky Brand Jeans for \$225 million so that it can better focus on its Kate Spade brand.

The New York company, formerly known as Liz Claiborne, has been selling off parts of its business over the past few years. Before announcing the sale Tuesday to an affiliate of private eq-

uity firm Leonard Green & Partners LP, it sold its Juicy Couture brand in October to Authentic Brands Group for \$195 million.

The Lucky deal includes \$140 million in cash and \$85 million as a three-year seller note.

Fifth & Pacific Cos. said that Lucky Brand Jeans will assume the proportionate

share of its sourcing contract with Li & Fung as well as some of its other obligations. Li & Fung is a wholesaler of clothing, footwear and accessories.

CEO William McComb said proceeds from the Juicy Couture and Lucky Brand sales will be \$370 million to \$380 million. That includes the face value of the seller

note. "We believe that by focusing all of our resources on the huge opportunity at Kate Spade, we can deliver the strongest value creation opportunity for our shareholders. This is all about bringing Kate Spade to its full potential," he said. The sale of Lucky Brand is expected to close early next year. □

Once-frothy Nasdaq tries to reach dot-com peak

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It takes a long time to recover from a bad hangover, especially when you party like it's 1999.

The Nasdaq Composite is up 35 percent this year, but while other major indexes like the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 have celebrated all-time highs again and again, the Nasdaq remains 20 percent below its dot-com peak of 5,048.62.

That's a good thing because the biggest beneficiary of the late '90s Internet mania was also its biggest victim. After cresting on March 10, 2000, the index lost nearly 80 percent of its value over the next two years, touching bottom on Oct. 9, 2002 at 1,114.11. Even as it soars faster than other indexes, the Nasdaq isn't what it was. While still tech-heavy, it's more diverse, reasonably valued and loaded with profitable companies, investors say.

"The Nasdaq is very different, in every measurable,

quantifiable way, than it was," says Gavin Baker, who manages nearly \$10 billion in assets for the Fidelity OTC fund. Technology companies make up a smaller percentage of the index, roughly 42 percent, compared with 56 percent 13 years ago. The telecom industry is a little less than 2 percent, compared with 18 percent back then. And consumer-focused companies such as Amazon.com are a much bigger part of the index, making up 22 percent, compared with basically zero in March 2000. The Nasdaq recently passed the 4,000 mark, a level last seen in September of 2000. But that doesn't mean its stocks are back in a dot-com-like bubble. Yes, it's still riskier than the Dow and S&P 500, investors say, because it contains hundreds of small companies and is heavily exposed to technology. But it is significantly less risky than it was. When the bubble was at its biggest, the index had a price-to-earnings ratio of 194:1, which means inves-

tors were paying \$194 for every \$1 of earnings the companies in the index brought in. Today, the Nasdaq's P/E is around 23.5,

like Pets.com and Webvan, which were never profitable and which investors valued based on "cash burn rates" and "eyeballs,"

While Nasdaq's current rise can be partly credited to technology companies, these "new" tech names are much different from the



Electronic billboards are reflected in the windows of Nasdaq in New York. The Nasdaq Composite is up 35 percent in 2013, but while other major indexes like the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 have celebrated all-time highs again and again, the Nasdaq remains 20 percent below its dot-com peak of 5,048.62.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

according to FactSet. What was powering its lofty valuation in the go-go years? It was companies

instead of sales and profits. Now, Pets.com and Webvan, and those metrics, are dead and buried.

ones that went public in the late 1990s.

Continued on page 27

American ban on high-risk bank trades approved

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. banks will be barred in most cases from trading for their own profit under a federal

rule approved Tuesday. The Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. each unanimously voted to adopt the so-called Volcker Rule, tak-

ing a major step toward preventing extreme risk-taking on Wall Street that helped trigger the 2008 financial crisis.

Three other regulators were

expected to follow suit Tuesday.

Congress instructed regulators to draft the rule, named after Paul Volcker, a former Fed chairman, under the 2010 financial overhaul law. It was agreed to after three years of drafts, debates and lobbying by Wall Street banks.

The final version is stricter than many had expected and are intended to prevent risky trading that required taxpayer-funded bailouts during the crisis. But the rule still provides some exemptions.

The rule "has the important objective of limiting excessive risk-taking by depository institutions," Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said in a statement.

At its heart, the rule seeks to ban banks from almost all proprietary trading. The practice of trading for their own profit has been very lucrative for big banks like JPMorgan Chase, Bank of

America and Citigroup. The rule also limits banks' investments in hedge funds. Still, the final version allows proprietary trading when it is done to facilitate buying and selling investment for customers. That is known as market-making.

Also exempted from the ban are cases when a bank underwrites a securities offering, and for trading in U.S. government, state and local bonds.

The other three agencies voting for the rule include the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Treasury Department's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

The largest U.S. banks — those with \$50 billion or more in assets — will be required to fully comply with the terms of the rule by July 2015.

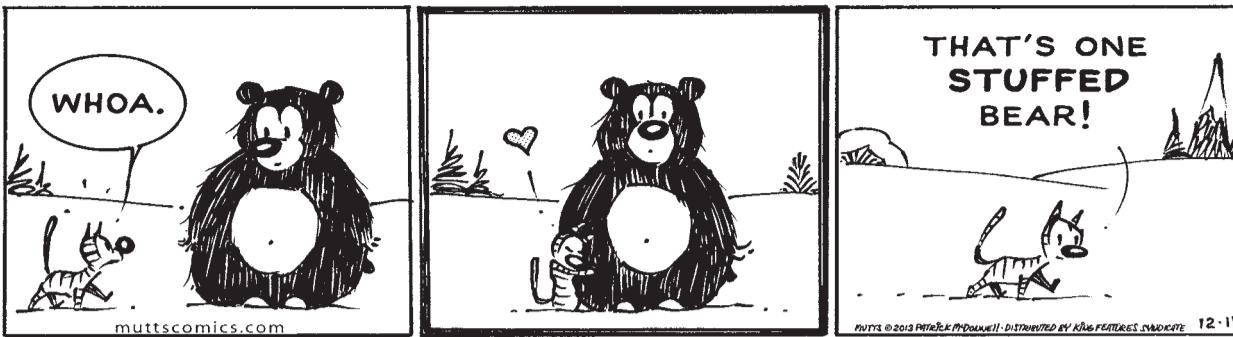
Other banks will have until 2016 to comply. □



Paul Volcker, economist and former chairman of the Federal Reserve, at his office in New York, May 28, 2013.

(Robert Caplin/The New York Times)

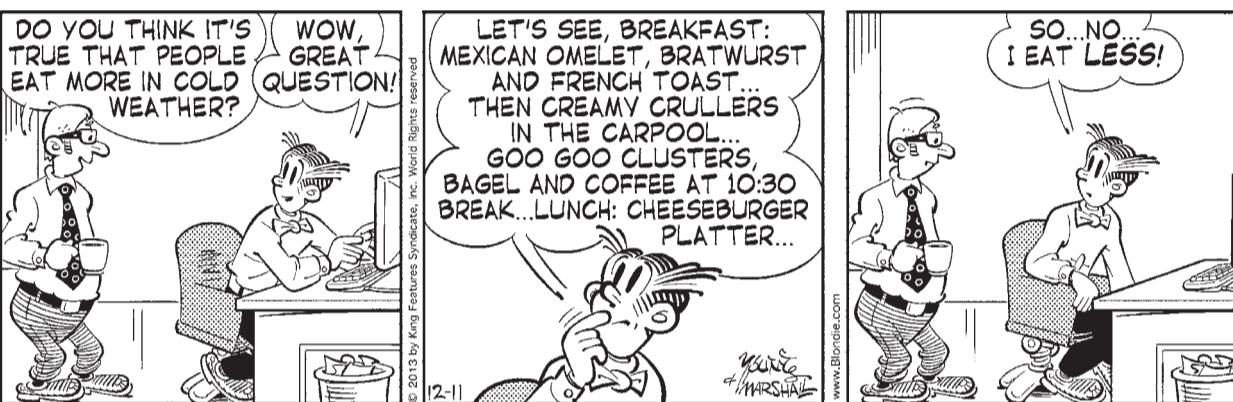
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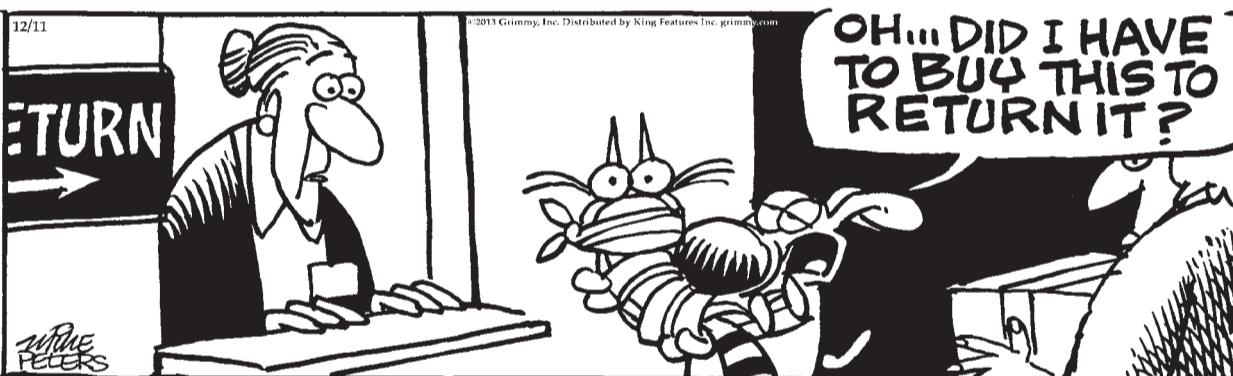
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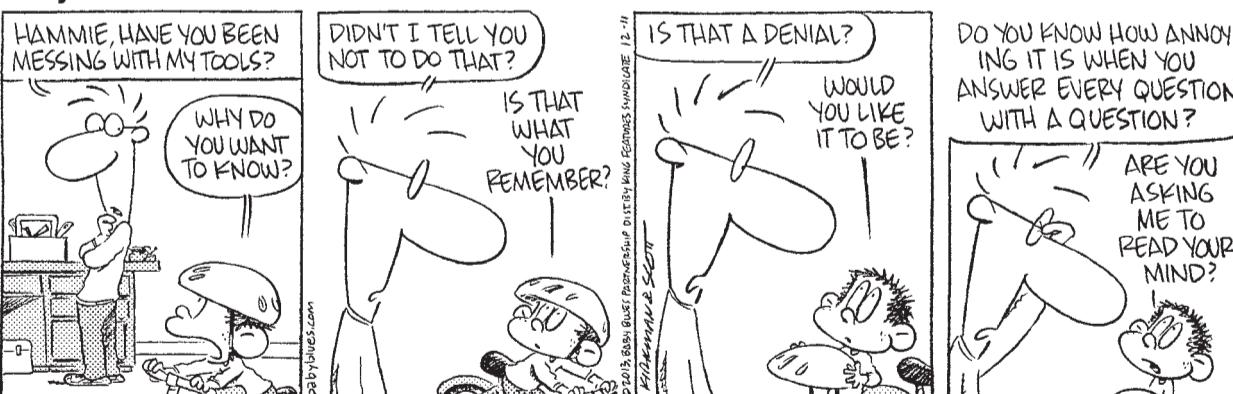
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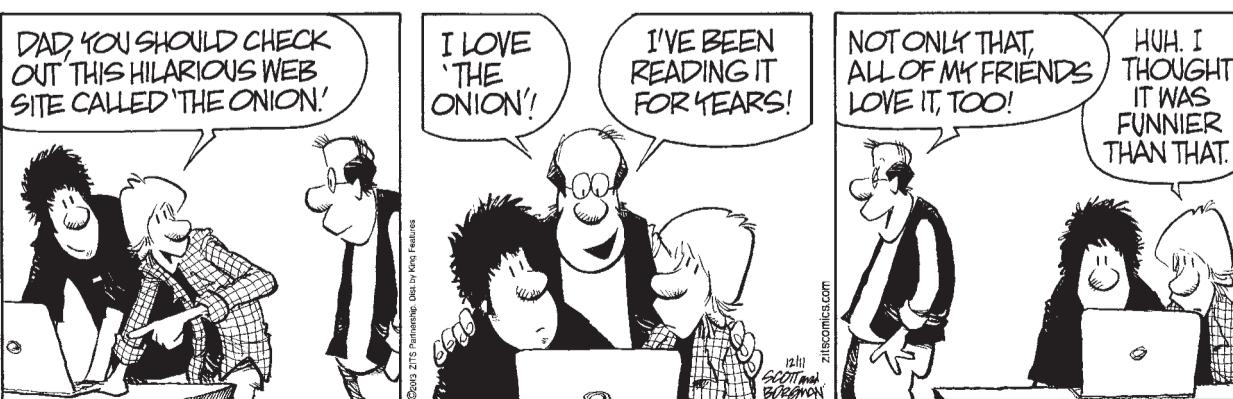
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2	5	3							
			7									
2	6	9		8	4	1						
7	5		8			2	4					
9							8					
1								6				
8								5				
3									4			
			5	2	1	4	9					

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	8	4	3	2	7	6	9	1				
3	6	2	9	8	1	4	7	5				
7	1	9	5	4	6	2	8	3				
9	4	5	6	3	2	7	1	8				
2	3	1	8	7	4	9	5	6				
6	7	8	1	9	5	3	2	4				
4	2	3	7	1	8	5	6	9				
8	5	7	4	6	9	1	3	2				
1	9	6	2	5	3	8	4	7				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
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	23	24							25			
26	27					28			29	30		
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47	48	49				50			51	52	53	
54			55	56				57				
58			59					60				
61			62					63				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/11/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	O	I	D	A	H	O	M	O	C	K	
V	E	N	T	M	I	X	E	D	A	B	L	
E	A	C	H	B	A	L	M	Y	R	E	I	
5	W	a	s	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	
NEEDINESS	TYPHO	ROBE	SHY	ABLAZE	SNEERING	GROPE	SCOUR	LOA	NAVY	PLODS	FLIP	
ROBE	SHY	ABLAZE	SNEERING	GROPE	SCOUR	LOA	NAVY	PLODS	FLIP	EVE	CROWS	LEASE
ABLAZE	SNEERING	GROPE	SCOUR	LOA	NAVY	PLODS	FLIP	EVE	CROWS	LEASE	WORSHIPS	PANTED
TORE	EMPHASIZE	EVIL	VALENT	NERD	NEST	AMUSE	GAGA	TREE	LASTS	LOB	VIM	CROC
TORE	EMPHASIZE	EVIL	VALENT	NERD	NEST	AMUSE	GAGA	TREE	LASTS	LOB	CROCK	PHASE
EMPHASIZE	EVIL	VALENT	NERD	NEST	AMUSE	GAGA	TREE	LASTS	LOB	CROCK	PHASE	WORSHIPS
EVIL	VALENT	NERD	NEST	AMUSE	GAGA	TREE	LASTS	LOB	CROCK	PHASE	WORSHIPS	PANTED
VALENT	NERD	NEST	AMUSE	GAGA	TREE	LASTS	LOB	CROCK	PHASE	WORSHIPS	PANTED	ADOLESCENCE
NERD	NEST	AMUSE	GAGA	TREE	LASTS	LOB	CROCK	PHASE	WORSHIPS	PANTED	ADOLESCENCE	VENTURE
GAGA	TREE	LASTS	LOB	CROCK	PHASE	WORSHIPS	PANTED	ADOLESCENCE	VENTURE	ADOLESCENCE	VENTURE	ADOLESCENCE
TREE	LASTS	LOB	CROCK	PHASE	WORSHIPS	PANTED	ADOLESCENCE	VENTURE	ADOLESCENCE	VENTURE	ADOLESCENCE	VENTURE

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- 2 Philosopher Immanuel
3 Hesitancy
4 Earl Grey
5 Warsaw's land
6 In the midst of
7 Take care of
8 Yolk's place
9 Observed
10 Theater
11 Ore deposit
12 Floored
13 Cushions
14 Angry
15 Ring of light above a saint
16 In case
17 "This tastes awful!"
18 Cook's apparel
19 Repair
20 Religious sister
21 Writing surface for chalk
22 Like one who pigs out
23 Mistreat
24 Infuriated
25 Snail's cousin
26 Vietnam's capital
27 Dollar bills
28 Like one who pigs out
29 Observed
30 Unpredictable
31 Artists' aprons
32 Pile
33 Go wrong
34 Secondhand
35 Common metal
36 Stratagem
37 Marathon
38 Sudden pain
39 Reek
40 Encourage
41 Remain unsettled
42 Artist's aprons
43 Encourage
44 Alit
45 Rudely brief
46 Qualified
- 47 Marathon
48 Injure by rough handling
49 Requirement
50 Sneeze's bug
51 Encourage
52 Sneeze's bug
53 Requirement
54 Sneeze's bug
55 Saloon
56 Wan Kenobi
57 Sneeze's bug

Once-frothy Nasdaq tries to reach dot-com peak**Continued from page 25**

Google, a Nasdaq company, debuted in 2004 when it was already profitable. Facebook, one of the index's largest companies, has enjoyed solid profits and strong revenue growth. And Apple, which has been a public company on the Nasdaq since the early 1980s, has seen mammoth growth. In March 2000, Apple was a \$20 billion company that hadn't released the iPod. Today, it's worth \$500 billion.

"These are profitable companies with mature business models and cash flow," Baker says.

Even some of the dot-com era's biggest busts on the Nasdaq have recovered. Priceline.com hit \$975 a share in 1999, only to plunge to less than \$10 three years later. It now trades at \$1,189.

Still, it may take a while for the Nasdaq to remove all the scar tissue from the dot-com collapse. The stock market is unlikely to keep rising at its scorching 2013 pace, so the Nasdaq is two years away, maybe more, from erasing all its internet bubble losses.

And there are some big Nasdaq stocks that never truly recovered. Intel and Microsoft haven't seen much growth for a decade — and that's not expected to change. Worldwide PC sales are forecast to fall 10 percent in 2013 to 184 million units, according

to industry tracking company IDC. While Microsoft and Intel have diversified into other businesses, selling Windows software and computers remains Microsoft's bread-and-butter. Intel traded for roughly \$72 a share at its height. It's now \$25. Microsoft had its dot-com peak at \$58. It's down to \$38.

"The so-called 'four horseman' of technology — Dell, Microsoft, Cisco and Intel — are not going to be the ones to take us to 5,000," says Dan Morgan, a portfolio manager with Synovis Trust, who specializes in technology companies. So what will drive the Nasdaq to 5,000 if the old guard can't?

Morgan expects the high-flyers of the last five years —

Google, Apple and Facebook — to continue pushing up the Nasdaq, which has even farther to go if it wants to reach its inflation adjusted peak of 6,845.83. Biotechnology will also play a role, as health care now makes up 12 percent of the index's weight.

Gilead Sciences, maker of widely used flu vaccine Tamiflu and HIV medication Truvada, is now the 8th largest company in the Nasdaq and is up more than 3,100 percent since the index's all-time high in March 2000. Pharmaceutical company Amgen is the 12th largest company in the index.

"I'm optimistic we will eventually make a new high," Baker says, "but it's going to take time." □

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Foundation	
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Bloodbank Aruba	
Tel: 587-0002	



European probe on course for a landing on a comet

FRANK JORDANS

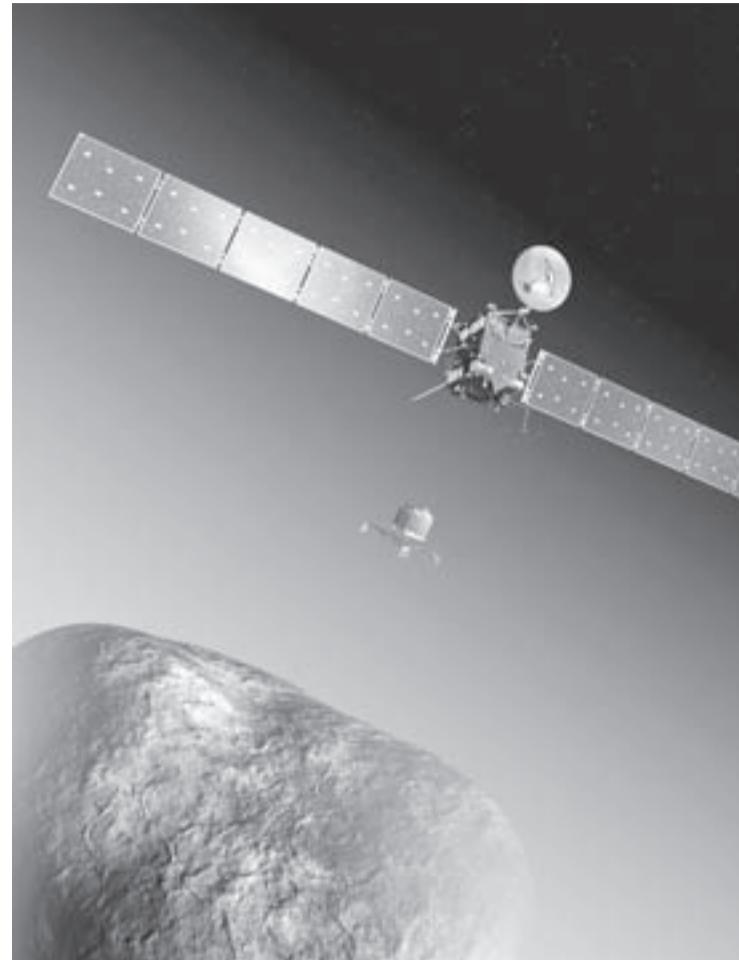
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — It's been likened to a parachutist trying to land on a mountaintop. Or a person attempting to leap from one speeding car to another.

The European Space Agency is planning to land an unmanned spacecraft on a comet next year in an unprecedented and exquisitely tricky mission that has been underway for almost a decade and is about to enter a critical new phase. The agency announced Tuesday that its Rosetta probe, which has been journeying through space since its launch in 2004, will be awakened from hibernation next month and will aim to drop a lander onto the icy surface of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko on Nov. 11, 2014.

The plan is different from NASA's Deep Impact mission, which used a probe to fire a projectile into a comet in 2005 and create a plume of matter for scientists to study. That was just a drive-by compared with the rendezvous the Europeans are planning.

Scientists hope that by flying Rosetta alongside the comet and sending down a barrel-size lander to collect and analyze samples, they will get an even better idea of what comets are made of and what role they played in the forma-



This publicly provided image by the European Space Agency ESA shows an artist's impression of the Rosetta orbiter deploying the Philae lander to comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. The image is not to scale; the Rosetta spacecraft measures 32 m across including the solar arrays, while the comet nucleus is thought to be about 4 km wide.

Associated Press

tion of our solar system. "Nobody has ever done this before," said Paolo Ferri, head of mission operations at the European Space Agency.

Ferri noted that while NASA managed to land a probe on an asteroid in 2001, comets are much more volatile places because they

constantly release dust and gas that can harm a spacecraft. A comet is essentially a dirty snowball; an asteroid is a rock.

To catch 67P as it orbits the sun at up to 100,000 kph (62,000 mph), Rosetta has made several fly-bys of Earth, Mars and the sun, using their gravity to acceler-

ate.

Once the spacecraft picked up sufficient speed and was on course to rendezvous with the comet, ESA put Rosetta into hibernation for more than two years to conserve energy. This also gave engineers the time to find workarounds for two glitches that threatened the mission: a problem with two of the four reaction wheels used to turn the spacecraft, and a small helium leak that could affect the thrusters vital for its final maneuvers.

For now, scientists have a tense wait to see whether the probe wakes up as planned when its alarm clock goes off at 1000 GMT (5 a.m. EST) on Jan. 20.

The spacecraft will be about 800 million kilometers (500 million miles) from Earth at the time, and signals will take 45 minutes to travel each way.

If all goes according to plan, Rosetta will begin searching for 67P — a lump of rock and ice about four kilometers (2.5 miles) in diameter that is invisible to the naked eye.

By November, Rosetta will have drawn up alongside the comet and found a suitable place for the lander, called Philae.

The cylindrical lander — which is roughly the size of a chemical drum, at about 80 centimeters high by 100 centimeters wide (3.3 feet

by 2.6 feet) — will gently glide down to the surface and latch onto the comet with a harpoon, to prevent it from drifting off into space because of the icy lump's weak gravity.

Using drills, Philae will dig up samples and analyze them with its on-board instruments. Researchers hope to gain fascinating insights, because comets have remained largely unchanged since our solar system formed.

"This time capsule's been locked away for 4.6 billion years," said ESA director of science Mark McCaughran.

One key question scientists hope to answer is whether comets are responsible for the water on Earth.

Rosetta and Philae will keep sending back data until their batteries die or the debris streaming off the comet irreparably damages their sensitive instruments.

Ferri said Philae's useful lifetime could be as short as three days, while Rosetta is unlikely to survive beyond late 2016.

NASA, meanwhile, is also planning another space rock mission between 2019 and 2021. The agency is looking into sending a robotic spaceship to lasso a small asteroid and haul it close to the moon, where spacewalking astronauts would explore it. □

Antarctica set record of minus 135.8 F (-94.7 C)

SETH BORENSTEIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly analyzed data from East Antarctica say the remote region has set a record for soul-crushing cold. The record is minus 135.8 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 94.7 Celsius).

A new look at NASA satellite data revealed that Earth set a new record for coldest temperature recorded. It happened in August 2010 when it hit -135.8 degrees Fahrenheit (-94.7 Celsius). Then on July 31 of this year,

it came close again: -135.3 degrees Fahrenheit (-92.9 Celsius).

The old record had been -128.6 degrees Fahrenheit (-89.2 Celsius).

Ice scientist Ted Scambos at the National Snow and Ice Data Center announced the cold facts at the American Geophysical Union scientific meeting in San Francisco Monday.

"It's more like you'd see on Mars on a nice summer day in the poles," Scambos said, from the American Geophysical Union sci-

entific meeting in San Francisco Monday, where he announced the data. "I'm confident that these pockets are the coldest places on Earth."

However, it won't be in the Guinness Book of World Records because these were satellite measured, not from thermometers, Scambos said.

"Thank God, I don't know how exactly it feels," Scambos said. But he said scientists do routinely make naked 100 degree below zero Fahrenheit (73 degree



In this image provided by the National Snow and Ice Data Center, sastrugi stick out from the snow surface in this photo near Plateau Station in East Antarctica in 2008.

Associated Press

below zero Celsius) dashes outside in the South Pole as a stunt, so people can survive that temperature for about three minutes.

Most of the time researchers

need to breathe through a snorkel that brings air into the coat through a sleeve and warms it up "so you don't inhale by accident" the cold air, Scambos said.

AP Newsbreak: Winfrey announces new book club pick

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Here's something to pre-order for the holidays: Oprah Winfrey's new book club pick. Winfrey has chosen Sue Monk Kidd's "The Invention of Wings," coming out Jan. 7. An interview with Kidd will appear in the upcoming edition of "O: The Oprah Magazine," which arrives Dec. 17. A conversation with Kidd will air next year at a date to be determined on the talk-show host's Super Soul Sunday, on OWN (the Oprah Winfrey Network).

Kidd's novel, a 19th-century narrative featuring real and fictional characters, weaves together the stories of a slave girl and a slave owner's daughter. Like Kidd's million-selling "The Secret Life of Bees," the book is set in South Carolina, where the 65-year-old author lived for many years.

"The moment I finished 'The Invention of Wings,' I knew this had to be the next book club selection," Winfrey said in a statement released Tuesday.

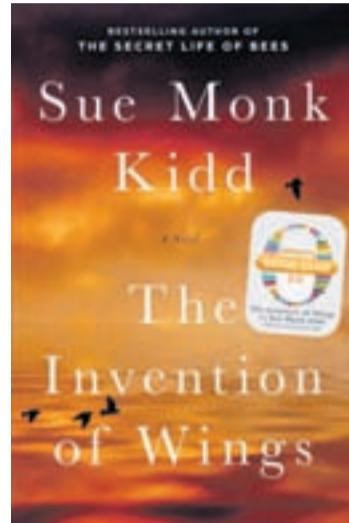
"These strong female characters represent the women that have shaped our history and, through Sue's imaginative storytelling, give us a new perspective on slavery, injustice and the search for freedom."

"I'm thrilled and honored that Oprah Winfrey chose my novel as her new book club selection," Kidd, who now lives in Florida, said in a statement.

"After researching and writing 'The Invention of Wings' for the past four years, I can't tell you how exciting it is to launch the novel with Oprah's Book Club 2.0."

Winfrey founded her book club in 1996 and quickly established herself as a reliable hit maker, whether choosing debut works such as Lalita Tademy's "Cane River" or old favorites such as John Steinbeck's "East of Eden."

She suspended her club in 2011, after ending her syndicated program, but relaunched it in 2012 as Oprah's Book Club 2.0.



This book cover image released by Viking shows "The Invention of Wings," by Sue Monk Kidd, which will be released in January 2014. Oprah Winfrey has chosen the book as her latest book club selection.

Associated Press

with a stronger emphasis on digital technology.

"The Invention of Wings" is Winfrey's third choice for the 2.0 club, and her first since selecting Ayana Mathis' "The Twelve Tribes of Hattie" almost exactly a year ago. □

Pink: Give husband some credit for song's success

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — While she's excited her ballad "Just Give Me a Reason" is nominated for the song of the year Grammy, Pink says she believes her husband deserves some credit for its success.

The track, which topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart for three weeks, is about holding on to a troubled relationship.

"It means everything because it's a conversation between lovers fighting the good fight and that's been our life," Pink said in an interview Tuesday, standing next to her motorcycle racer husband, Carey Hart. "Our family is everything to us." The 34-year-old often

Drew Barrymore is busy juggling work and family

NICOLE EVATT

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Drew Barrymore isn't exactly feeling the pregnancy glow.

"I feel so lucky to make healthy kids that I will never complain about anything because I just know how lucky I am," the 38-year-old actress said at a recent event for her beauty brand, Flower. "But I definitely don't feel superhot. I feel more like an Oompa Loompa."

Barrymore and her husband, Will Kopelman, are expecting their second child. Their daughter, Olive, is 14 months old.

Her top pregnancy style tips include "a really tight bra and a really loose blouse," great lipstick and a supportive partner.

"He's always so complementary," she said of Kopelman, an art consultant. "He's always very encouraging when I get myself ready. He always makes me feel really good about it." Barrymore has taken a break from the big screen to focus on motherhood and various business ventures, which include Barrymore Wines; her production company, Flower Films;



In this Sept. 19, 2013 file photo, actress Drew Barrymore attends the New York City Ballet 2013 Fall gala at Lincoln Center, in New York.

Associated Press

a new photography book, "Find It in Everything"; and her beauty brand for Walmart Stores Inc.

"I have a very male side of me that just loves business. I love producing. I love the rules. I love how to achieve getting financing for things, you know, staying within budget, on time, going into boardrooms and like fighting the good fight for things I really like," she said. "But I'm at a stage in my life where I really appreciate the womanly creativity more than ever. Being a mom and making babies

and thinking about what women want and what they need, what they deserve. So it fulfills that creative, sensitive side as well. So it's a perfect business for me to be in, and I get to go home at night and be with my family, which is everything."

Juggling a busy career with a growing family isn't easy, but the self-proclaimed overachiever said work has been her "savior."

"(It) always put me on a really good, diligent and responsible path in my life," she said. □



"Woman of the Year Award" honoree Pink poses with her husband, professional motocross racer, Carey Hart, at the "Billboard Women In Music Awards" at Capitale on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013 in New York. Associated Press

Awards.

Pink, who has won four Grammys, said being up for the coveted song of the year is unreal.

"That's a new thing for me," she said. "It's a pinch-me moment. I'm afraid to cross the street."

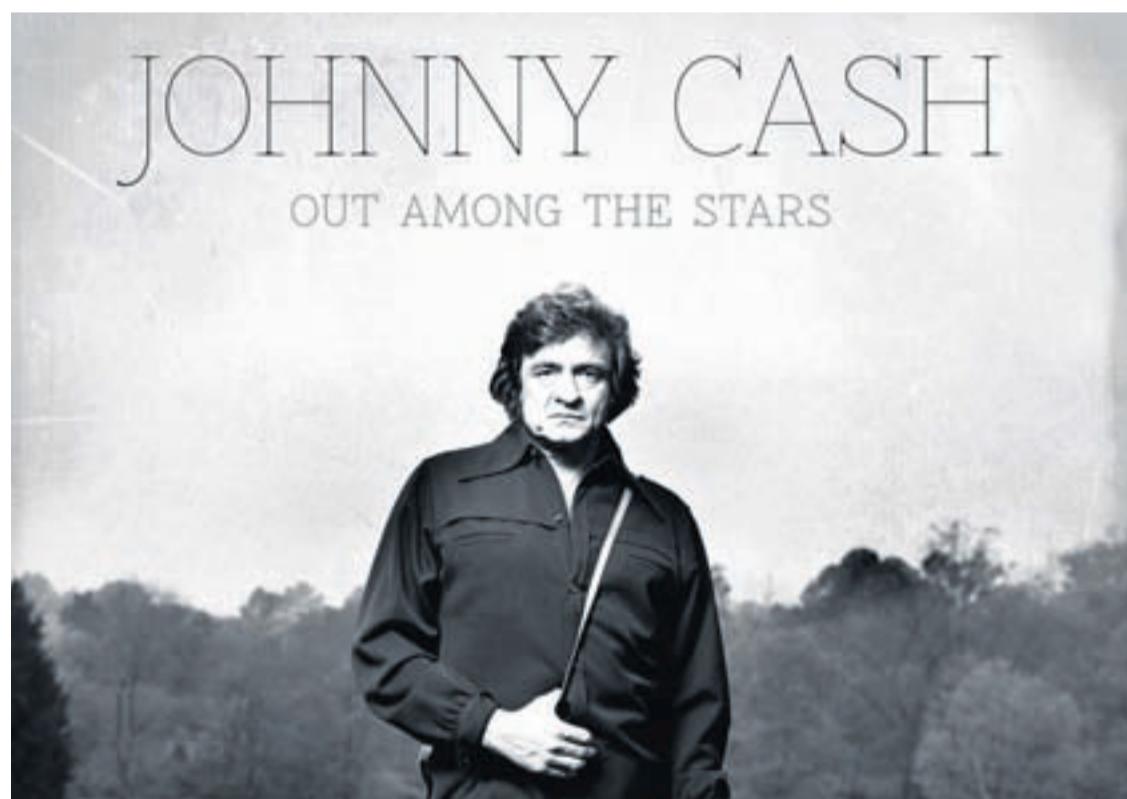
Her hit will battle anthems from Katy Perry, Bruno Mars, Lorde and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. But at the Billboard event, camaraderie was key: Pink congratulated R&B singer Janelle Monae, who was honored as music's rising star, while sister duo Tegan and Sara and Scottish band Chvrches performed. Debbie Harry, Kimberly Perry of the Band Perry, Andy Cohen, Matt Lauer and Melanie Fiona attended the event.

Reason," which has sold 4 million tracks and features Nate Ruess of fun., is also nominated for best pop duo/group performance at the Jan. 26 Grammy



This photo provided by Columbia/Legacy shows the Johnny Cash album cover for "Out Among the Stars," releasing March 25, 2014. The new album is comprised of 12 studio recordings by Cash that were recently discovered.

Associated Press



This July 27, 2013 file photo shows Actress Linda Lavin at the NBC 2013 summer press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Pres

Billy Graham weaker since 95th birthday party

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — A spokesman for the Rev. Billy Graham says the evangelist has generally been weaker since his 95th birthday celebration last month but his vital signs are good. Spokesman Mark DeMoss said Tuesday that Graham is at his home in

Montreat and does not appear to be in any imminent danger. Franklin Graham has said he would appreciate prayers for his father. Billy Graham celebrated his birthday in Asheville on Nov. 7 surrounded by hundreds of friends and guests. Two weeks after the party,

Graham was hospitalized for two days for observation and lung tests. He had been hospitalized in October for pulmonary testing. Graham uses a wheelchair and has been hospitalized for several health-related issues over the past few years. □

New Johnny Cash album to be released next spring

CHRIS TALBOTT

AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— There's new never-before-heard music coming from Johnny Cash. Cash's estate is releasing "Out Among the Stars," an album he recorded with Billy Sherrill in the early 1980s that was never released by Columbia Records, then disappeared when the company dropped Cash in 1986. Turns out Cash and his wife, June Carter Cash, stashed the tapes — along with just about everything else that came into their possession.

"They never threw anything away," said their son, John Carter Cash. "They kept everything in

their lives. They had an archive that had everything in it from the original audio tapes from 'The Johnny Cash Show' to random things like a camel saddle, a gift from the prince of Saudi Arabia."

They stored away so much, in fact, the younger Cash and archivists at Legacy Recordings didn't find the material until last year, long after the family began issuing archival music by Cash. "Out Among the Stars" will be out March 25, and continues an intense period of interest in the singer, who helped shape modern country and rock 'n' roll music and became an American pop cultural figure before his death 10

years ago at age 71. Multiple music, book and restoration projects have been started in the past 18 months to mark what would have been the singer's 80th birthday and the 10th anniversary of his death. The music being released was recorded during a difficult period for Cash personally and professionally.

Columbia paired him with Sherrill, a producer and Country Music Hall of Fame member who was then the president of CBS Records Nashville.

One of the main architects of country music's so-called countrypolitan sound, Sherrill helped push the genre toward pop sounds and conventions — and away from Cash's more independent-minded ways. The pairing came at a time when Cash was at a low ebb in his popularity. The music on "Out Among the Stars" is taken from 1981 and '84 sessions, at a time when country music was going through great change.

"Dad was always uniquely himself," Cash said. "And later on the world would come back around. He never modified himself. But Nashville at the time was in a completely different place. It was the 'Urban Cowboy' phase. It was pop country, and dad was not that. I think him working with Billy was sort of an effort by the record company to put him more in the circle of Music Row and see what could happen at the heart of that machine." It was clear record company executives didn't think much of the outcome. They put out a few more Cash albums after the recordings were made, but never used the music from those sessions before dropping him. Sherrill backed Cash with a band that consisted of fellow Country Hall of Fame member Hargus "Pig" Robbins and a young friend of Cash's named Marty Stuart. □

Linda Lavin to return to off-Broadway stage

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Linda Lavin will find herself in a familiar place this spring — in a Nicky Silver play, being directed by Mark Brokaw at the Vineyard Theatre. The off-Broadway theater said Tuesday that Tony Award-winning Lavin will star in Silver's new play "Too Much Sun," which begins previews May 1, with an official opening set for May 20. The play is about a celebrated actress who unravels while preparing for a production of "Medea."

Lavin, the former paper hat-wearing star of the TV series "Alice," last year played a fearsome mother in Silver's "The Lyons," which debuted at the Vineyard under Brokaw's direction. The role earned Lavin a Tony nomination. The 76-year-old Lavin was recently in "Follies" at the Kennedy Center and "Other Desert Cities" at Lincoln Center. □

A Lesson Before Dying



CHARLES M. BLOW
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One of the great lights of the world went dark Thursday. Nelson Mandela left this world, having enormously altered it. And yet, the extraordinary example that he set lives on and provides a lesson - a blueprint - for all of us who still labor for justice, equality and freedom. Be convinced of your cause. Conviction, character and consistency are sorely lacking in our modern era of fame-chasing, poll-testing and comment-reading. The status quo has a way of lulling the masses into complacency and acceptance. It's known and familiar. There are always those whose lives are comfortable and whose livelihoods are secure under it.

Upsetting the status quo - or upending it - is always a radical proposition and is often an unpopular one, sometimes even among those who suffer under the entrenched system. Your cause may be unpopular, but history has demonstrated again and again that it will look kindly on the just. First, be a fighter. Time has a way of rendering history smooth and digestible, of polishing away the rough bits and sweetening the bitter. Mandela was not only a lovely, grandfatherly figure; he was also a freedom fighter, a man willing to commit his life to - or even sacrifice it for - what he believed in.

Mandela's African National Congress was once deemed a terrorist organization by both his home country, South Africa, and by the United States. And America's view of Mandela and of South Africa's system of apartheid cannot be whitewashed, even as we now venerate Mandela in death.

As Noam Chomsky wrote in his 2010 book "Hopes and Prospects":

"Through the 1980s, U.S. trade with South Africa increased despite the 1985 congressional sanctions (which Reagan evaded), and Reagan continued to back South African depredations in neighboring countries that led to an estimated 1.5 million deaths. As late as 1988 the administration condemned Nelson Mandela's African National Congress

as one of the world's 'more notorious terrorist groups.'"

Be brave. Courage is not required to execute that which is easy or convenient. As the Texas progressive author and agitator Jim Hightower once put it, "Even a dead fish can go with the flow." Courage is drawing up your shoulder and pushing into the resistance. Courage is doing what is unpopular or dangerous or disconcerting because, even if you must do it alone, it is the right thing to do.

As Mandela put it: "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." We all feel fear. In fact, fear the person who claims that he or she does not. But fear withers under the heat of righteousness. It cannot spread when it is cornered by those of noble conviction.

Remember that no one can divest you of your basic humanity without your submission and allowance. Discrimination and injustice are insidious, virulent scourges that the world is working hard to remedy, but they remain stubbornly resistant to complete eradication. Even as we labor to be rid of them, let us all retain our resolve and rise up in our dignity.

I like to think of it the way Zora Neale Hurston once put it: "Sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me." The person consumed by discrimination morally subjugates himself or herself, as a matter of principal, to the person free of it, leaving the person free of it with the moral high ground.

Never underestimate the power of grace. Mandela's immeasurable grace and equanimity, his presidency and his efforts at reconciliation in South Africa will forever serve as an example to the world of the true possibilities and power of the human spirit. We so often think of power as force, but there is also enormous power in love, understanding and forgiveness. Demonstrating kindness to those who have treated you cruelly is an act of moral supremacy. It is the most powerful of human exercises, because in so doing, you conquer the self and diminish your enemy.

Finally, remember that all things are possible for those of strong will and unwavering perseverance. Those who can't imagine change reveal the deficits of their imaginations, not the difficulty of change. As Mandela put it: "It always seems impossible until it's done." □



2 Cheers For E-Cigarettes



JOE NOCERA
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Imagine a product - a legal but lethal one - that kills 400,000 Americans a year. Public health advocates have been trying for decades to convince Americans not to use it. The industry has been sued and sued again, but it is still operating profitably. One out of every five Americans is addicted to the product.

Now imagine that an alternative comes to the market, an innovative device that can help people to wean themselves from the deadly product. It has the same look and feel as the lethal product; indeed, that's a large part of its appeal. It, too, is addictive. But the ingredients that kill people are absent.

This, of course, is no imaginary scenario. The lethal product is cigarettes, which use nicotine to addict and combustible tobacco to kill. And the alternative is electronic cigarettes, which deliver nicotine without the tobacco, and emit a vapor that almost instantly evaporates. Yes, users can be hooked on nicotine, which is a stimulant. But people who "vape" are not going to die, at least not from inhaling their cigarette.

You'd think that the public health community would be cheering at the introduction of electronic cigarettes. We all know how hard it is to quit smoking. We also know that nicotine replacement

therapies, like the patch, haven't worked especially well. The electronic cigarette is the first harm-reduction product to gain serious traction among American smokers.

Yet the public health community is not cheering. Far from it: groups like the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids are united in their opposition to e-cigarettes. They want to see them stigmatized - like tobacco cigarettes. They want to see them regulated like cigarettes, too, which essentially means limited marketing and a ban on their use wherever tobacco cigarettes are banned. Thomas Farley, New York City's health commissioner, trotted out most of the rationales against e-cigarettes the other day at a City Council hearing. (The City Council is considering a bill, strongly supported by the Bloomberg administration, that would forbid the use of an e-cigarette anywhere that cigarettes are banned.) E-cigarettes, he said, "are so new we know very little about them." Thanks to e-cigarettes, smoking is becoming glamorous again, and could become socially acceptable. The number of high school students who have tried electronic cigarettes doubled from 2011 to 2012. He made a particular point of showing how closely e-cigarettes resembled old-fashioned tobacco cigarettes.

The reason to fear this resemblance, say opponents of electronic cigarettes, is that "vaping" could wind up acting as a gateway to smoking. Yet, so far, the evidence suggests just the opposite. Several recent studies have strongly suggested that the majority of e-cigarette users are people who are trying to quit their tobacco habit. The number of people who have done the opposite - gone from e-cigarettes to cigarettes - is minuscule.

"What the data is showing is that virtually all the experimentation with e-cigarettes is happening among people who are already smokers," says Michael Siegel, a professor at the Boston University School of Health.

Siegel is a fierce critic of tobacco companies, but he's also not afraid to criticize the anti-tobacco advocates when they stretch the truth. When we got to talking about the opposition to e-cigarettes in the public health community, he said, "The anti-smoking movement is so opposed to the idea of smoking it has transcended the science, and become a moral crusade. I think there is an ideological mindset in which anything that looks like smoking is bad. That mindset has trounced the science."

Another person who considers e-cigarettes promising is David Abrams, executive director of the Schroeder Institute for Tobacco Research and Policy Studies. "It's a disruptive technology," he said, "that might give cigarettes a run for their money." In his view, the anti-tobacco advocates had spent so many years arguing for "a total abstinence framework," that they haven't been able to move from that position. Yet, he noted, the country has long tolerated many similar harm reduction strategies, including needle exchanges and methadone maintenance.

None of this is to say that electronic cigarettes should be free of regulation. But they should be regulated for what they are - a pharmaceutical product that delivers nicotine, not a conduit for tobacco poison. Let them make health claims - which they can't now do - so long as they are backed up with real science. And, most of all, use e-cigarettes to help make "real" cigarettes obsolete.

At that recent New York City Council meeting, one of the fiercest critics to testify was Kevin O'Flaherty of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

"If it walks like a duck and it talks like a duck and it sounds like a duck and it looks like a duck, it is a duck," he said.

Is this what passes for science when you oppose electronic cigarettes? □

Reviving the life of the party with a savory apple tart

MELISSA CLARK

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The cocktail party season is upon us, and with it a barrage of cheese and crackers in place of dinner. Not that there's anything wrong with cheese and crackers. It's just that after the third party or so, my enthusiasm for even the ripest artisanal cave-aged wedge starts to wane.

Consider this savory apple tart an antidote.

It hits all the requisite cheesy, alcohol-sopping notes, but it's more sophisticated and substantial.

In order to make this tart particularly hearty, I fortified the chewy pizza-like crust with three kinds of flour.

There's all-purpose for lightness, whole wheat for heft and nuttiness, and cornmeal for sweetness and a slight crunch. The downside is that you need to make the yeasted dough ahead of time so it can rise. But that's also the upside if you like to do things in advance, and the dough does very well rising overnight in the refrigerator. Just make sure

to bring it to room temperature before trying to flatten it out, or you won't get very far.

As for the topping, it's a comforting, mellow jumble of sweet roasted apples and shallots that's scented with thyme and zipped up with pungent blue cheese. Blue-cheese haters, fear not; you can substitute another variety just as long as it's pronouncedly stinky. All those gentle, caramelized flavors need something strident to perk them up.

Although this tart is best served warm within an hour or two of baking, you can make it in the morning and serve it the same night (reheat it in a 325-degree oven for about 20 minutes). But don't leave it longer than that. By the next morning, both the apples and the crust will have wilted into a sad and rather tired state. Or freeze the unbaked tart, then pop it into the oven while it's still frozen. (It will need an extra 20 to 30 minutes.)

To serve this at a big party, cut the tart into bite-size squares for easy consumption.

For a smaller group, serve it like focaccia alongside grilled sausages or baked ham. Its amenable nature means that it will fit in well with practically any holiday meal in an elegant and unexpected way. Which is a lot more than you can say about cheese and crackers.

ROASTED APPLE, SHALLOT AND BLUE CHEESE TART

Time: 1 hour 50 minutes

Yield: 12 servings

1 (1/4-ounce) envelope active dry yeast (2 1/4 teaspoons)
5 grams sugar (1 teaspoon)
150 grams all-purpose flour (1 1/2 cups), more as needed
55 grams whole-wheat flour (1/2 cup)
60 grams fine cornmeal (1/2 cup)
10 grams fine sea salt (2 1/4 teaspoons), more as needed
1/3 cup plus 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, more as needed
1 3/4 pounds apples, cored, quartered and sliced 1/4-inch thick
3/4 pound shallots, peeled,

trimmed and sliced 1/4-inch thick

1/4 teaspoon black pepper, more as needed
5 thyme branches
3/4 cup finely crumbled blue cheese

Flaky sea salt
1. Place 3/4 cup lukewarm water into a small bowl. Sprinkle yeast and sugar over water. Let stand until frothy, about 5 minutes.

2. In a large bowl, whisk together both flours, cornmeal and 8 grams (1 3/4 teaspoons) salt. Make a well in center of dry ingredients; stir in yeast mixture and 1/3 cup oil until mixture is combined. If the dough seems dry, add a little more water. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently until dough is smooth and elastic, about 7 to 10 minutes. Or, knead in a mixer or food processor fit with the dough blade for 3 to 5 minutes. Transfer to a lightly oiled bowl and cover loosely with plastic wrap. Allow to rest at room temperature until dough has doubled in volume, about 1 hour.

3. While dough rises, heat

oven to 425 degrees. In a large bowl, toss together apples, shallots, 1/4 cup oil, 2 grams (1/2 teaspoon) salt, the black pepper and thyme. Spread onto two large baking sheets. Roast, tossing occasionally, until mixture is tender and golden, about 30 minutes.

4. Increase oven temperature to 450 degrees. Lightly oil a large rimmed baking sheet. Punch down dough and transfer to baking sheet. Using a rolling pin or your fingers, roll or stretch dough to make an even layer about 3/16-inch thick. Scatter apple-shallot mixture over crust.

Scatter cheese on top. Drizzle with oil and season with flaky sea salt and black pepper. Transfer pan to oven and bake until crust is golden brown and cheese is just melted, 17 to 25 minutes. Cool slightly, then cut into squares and serve.

Note: Measurements for dry ingredients are given by weight for greater accuracy. The equivalent measurements by volume are approximate.

Yield: 12 servings. □



A roasted apple, shallot and blue cheese tart, in New York. This savory dish can serve as an antidote to the tired cheese-and-cracker holiday spread, but should be served within an hour or two of baking.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)